

FULL-COLOR PINUP OF THE ROAD WARRIORS & MR. T

VICTORY SPORTS WRESTLING MAGAZINE

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Summer 1985



# Victory Sports Wrestling



The Night  
**HULKAMANIA**  
Trampled  
Big John Studd

**KERRY VON ERICH:**  
"The NWA Title  
Is Within  
My Grasp"



**The Fabulous Freebirds:**



**IS MICHAEL HAYES  
READY TO FLY SOLO?**



**TOMMY  
RICH**

"Wildfire" '85!



52

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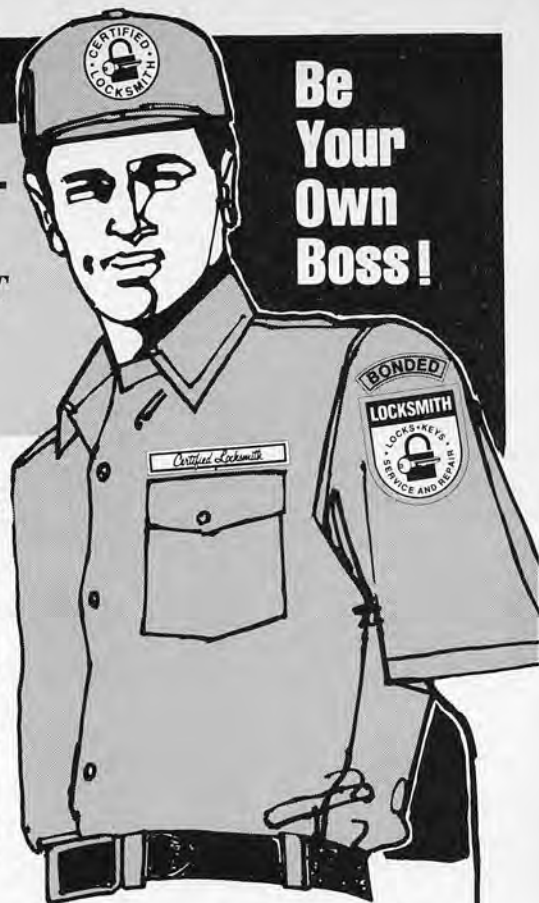
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## MACHO MEN HAVE MORE FUN

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## SKINNY ISN'T ATTRACTIVE

If you don't think so, just watch what turns women's heads on the beach. They get turned on by well-built guys. They're the ones with the prettiest girls. It's a rare fellow who doesn't want to look good in his clothes and is happy with a skinny frame, who has not envied men who weighed a little more, had a better appetite and generally displayed a physical fitness that spoke of health and well-being. True, while doctors and nutrition specialists warn against being fat, very little is said about the equal or greater evils of being underweight. So there's more to it than cosmetic aspects. Skinny is not only unattractive. It is also unhealthy. Gaining weight could mean gaining health for you.

## GAIN STAMINA AND SELF-CONFIDENCE TOO.

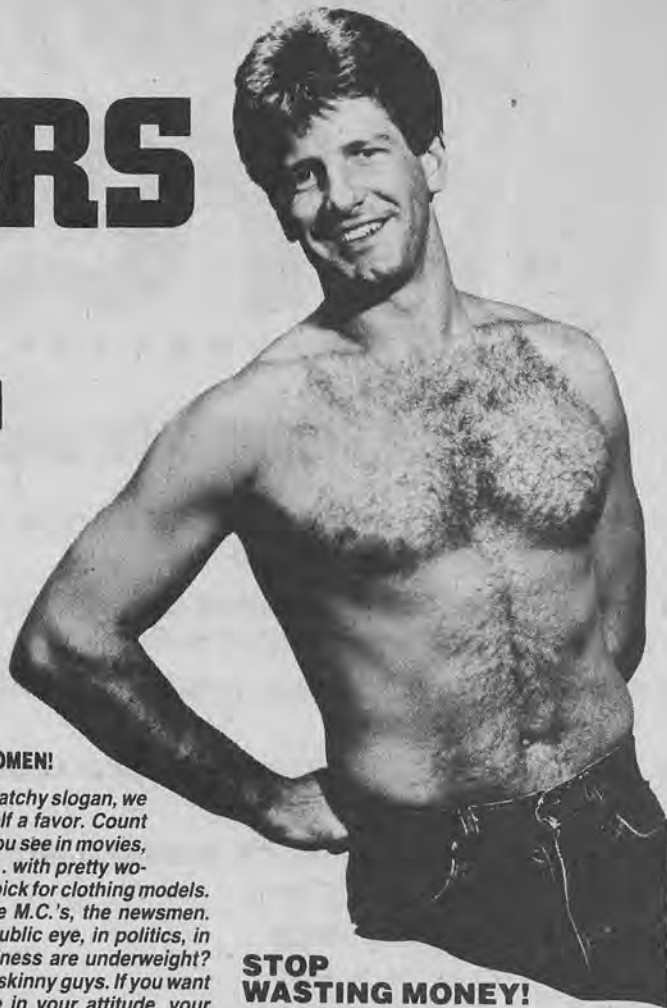
Skinny men are not great lovers. That's a known fact. Add a few pounds and you'll be amazed how it will improve your love-life. Women know this and are conscious of the fact that skinny men can't go the distance. The race is to the strong, the saying goes. And the fellow who is handsomest doesn't look like a stand-in for the family skeleton. Many a man found that gaining a few more pounds has helped him overcome chronic illness, major or minor. Many a doctor has prescribed gaining weight. But so little is publicized about skinny men. The great amount of publicity given to coronary problems has brought the bulk of weight attention to those men who weigh too much. Men who weigh too little never really get equal time. But their problem is no less serious.

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# W ictory Sports restling

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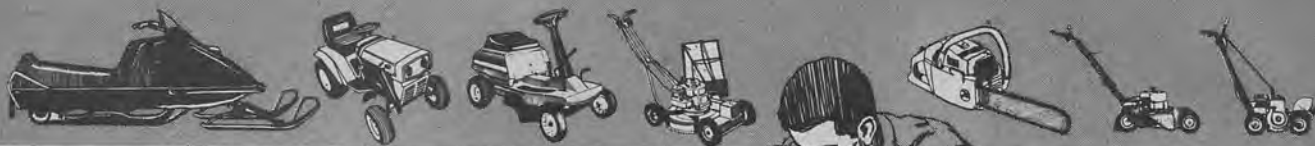
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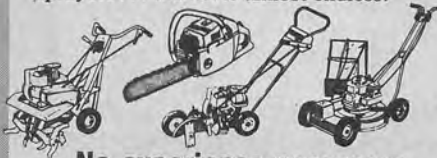
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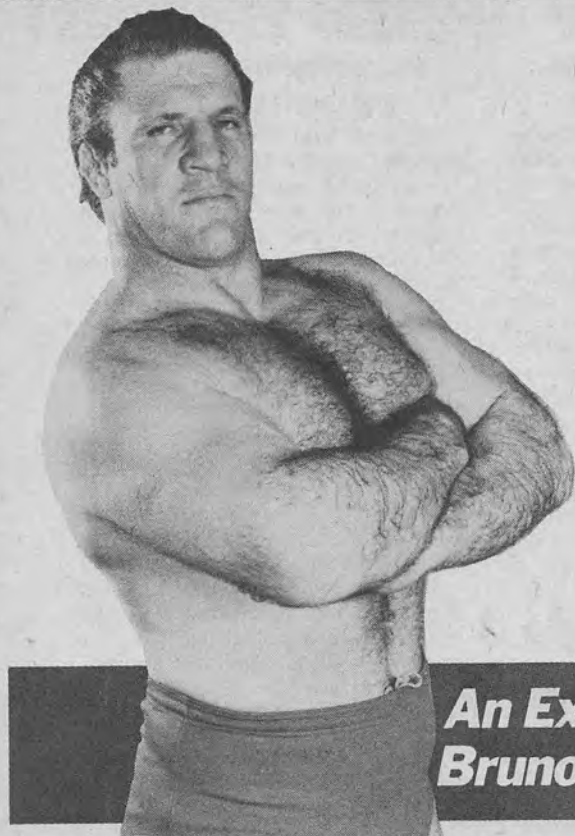
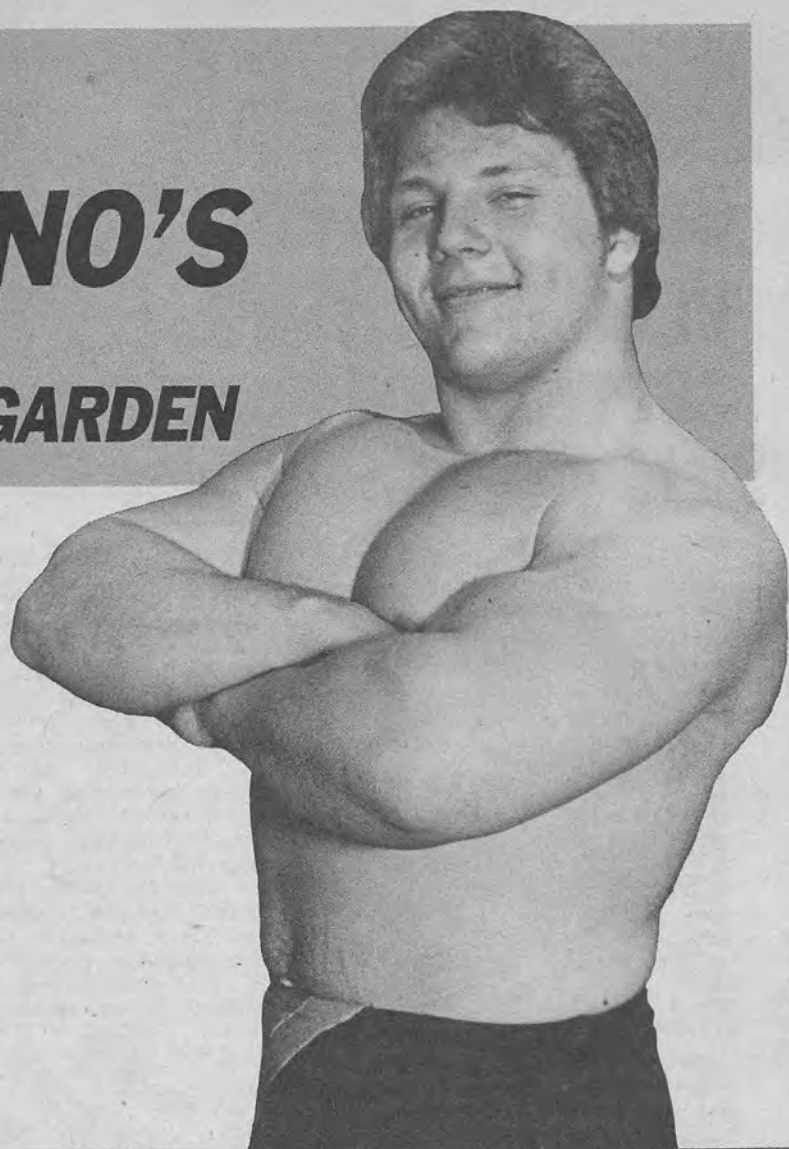
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# DAVID SAMMARTINO'S DEBUT AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN



## An Exclusive Analysis By Bruno Sammartino!

**B**EFORE DAVID'S MADISON Square Garden match, I told him first of all not to be like I was. As I remember very well, the first time I wrestled in the old Madison Square Garden, I was extremely, extremely nervous. And in being so nervous, I found myself—who had trained extremely hard and was in very good shape—I found myself breathing very heavy, even when I got into the ring. It was from nerves.

And because of that, I was not able to execute any of my wrestling skills very well. I had to rely on my strength mainly.

So I told David to be relaxed. Go out there, be relaxed, don't be intimidated that this is Madison Square Garden. Pretend in your mind that it's just another arena.

*(Continued on page 8)*

*David Sammartino displays his enormous strength as he hoists Moondog Spot over his head.*



**In what was certainly one of the most historic events in wrestling in 1984, David Sammartino, son of two-time former WWF champion the "Living Legend" Bruno Sammartino, made his Madison Square Garden debut. In this Victory Sports Wrestling feature, Bruno talks about his son's career and that remarkable New York City debut**



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Isn't it time some of the good things of life came your way; like love, money, power, possessions, luxury, comfort, health?

I don't know how long you've waited for good luck. But some folks wait a lifetime for the things they crave and never quite reach their goals. My heart goes out to them. I want to put my arm around them and say, "Here's a packet of wishes that will come true for you." And this is my way of doing it. 365 days a year I will radiate my super luck aura to you at pre-scheduled times and I want you tuned in to receive my special 4th dimensional broadcasts. You'll just be bathed in a glow of great feeling.

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The more receivers we have the more powerful the ESP reception and influence.

While it is true that having too many receivers will dilute the power of my broadcasts, it is best to have a full quota as my kind of ESP works best when a fairly large body of receptors are tuned in. While it is true that there are a great many folks who need good luck, it would please me most if those who need it most are tuned in. If you already have more than your share of the good things of life, like love and wealth and good robust health, perhaps it would be best if you gave those less fortunate a chance. You see, our enrollment is limited and we may have to turn some more needy folks away. We urge you to use your discretion.

**XENOX** is a nationally known scholar of the occult who is descended from a long line of mystics, seers and practitioners of the psychic, the mysterious, the baffling phenomena of our universe.

He has been a guest on talk shows and has been favorably reviewed for his supernatural sophistication. Unlike old-fashioned mystics of the past and present, Xenox is well-educated in modern science, applying the newest physics discoveries to the world of the strange, the bizarre and the inscrutable. He challenges scholars and purveyors of today's knowledge to explain such phenomena as acupuncture, the practice of witch doctor and the workings of witchcraft. Xenox is conversant with true magic, as opposed to the kind used on stage and on TV, applying to it the deep appreciation of its origins and application for the betterment of human existence. He has enriched his own life and understanding by explorations where no other mortal has ever dared to tread and has entered many a realm of forbidden insight and knowledge. Many have sought his oracles and counsel. Many a troubled mind has found peace and tranquility through this man's advice and superior judgement. Yet, he has never sought large fees or personal aggrandizement. He has always considered that his great wisdom is a special gift and exploiting it for personal gain was inappropriate as it has been a family tradition to help others. Thus the gift is preserved and passed on to future generations. He is a master of Kapora-Endelle but has never harmed anyone. He has successfully mastered "The Powers of Gold" and has attained Shoktsa. Xenox is a direct descendant magic practitioner in the original sense. He is the first of his kind to transmit the power of chance over any distance successfully.

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## DAVID SAMMARTINO

(Continued from page 6)

Don't let the name Madison Square Garden intimidate you, so that when you go there, you will be able to show the fans David Sammartino the wrestler, and the skills that you possess. I kept telling him that to the very last.

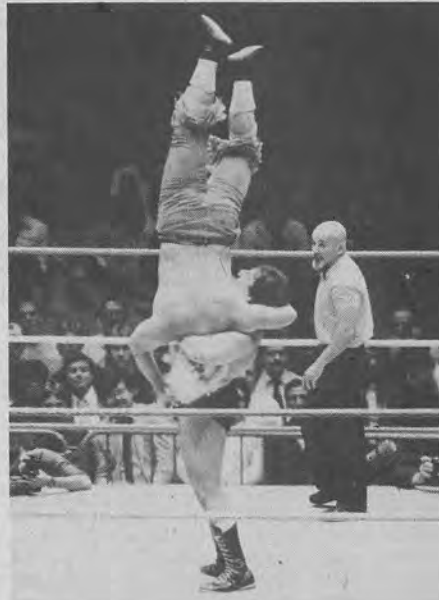
And even though I wasn't there in person, I saw a tape of the match, and he did exactly that. David demonstrated wrestling skills, and great strength.



*When David's compact, muscular body hits you, you know you've been hit (above). A suplex takes Spot up and over (right). David turns the Moondog's world upside down (below).*

Some people are speculating that there may be a change in my son David's style between now and, say, six or eight months ago when he was in the Georgia area.

I don't think that there's a big difference as far as style. What I think, if there's any change at all, is that it's just the natural change of maturity. David is growing, he's talented, and I think that as time goes on his talents are showing more and more.



I think that basically you're seeing the same wrestler now as a year ago. As far as moves and everything, I would say that maybe there's a little more finesse to what he does now. But as far as to suggest that he's a different wrestler from six or seven months ago, I wouldn't say that's true. Yes, he's improving all the time, but basically he's maintaining the same style.

David has got a variety of suplexes that he uses, and he used them in his Madison Square Garden debut match against Moondog Spot. He does what we call the vertical suplex; that's where he facelocks a guy and then hooks him by the inside of the thigh and lifts him straight up and back. He does that well; very, very well, in fact. He also does what we call the double chicken wing suplex, where he hooks both arms of the opponent and shoots him back. He's got about four different versions of suplexes, and he does all of them well.

In his match against Moondog Spot, David lifted the Moondog over his head. Now when I think of that move, I think about what an enormous amount of strength it takes.

You see, sometimes people do not know how to differentiate the qualities of strength in a wrestler. For example, when you see somebody getting caught in a wristlock, say something like Ivan Putski does where he overpowers the guy and throws him off, that shows that he is stronger than that individual in that particular sense, in that one position.

But when you take a guy 280 or 290 pounds, like David did, and press him overhead, to me that's superstrength. That is a strength that, without mentioning names, other so-called strong men will not be able to do. It takes balance—it's extremely awkward when you're deal-

(Continued on page 48)



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# Collision Of The Florida Musclemen: *CAN BILLY HAYNES SQUEEZE SUPERSTAR GRAHAM OUT OF WRESTLING?*

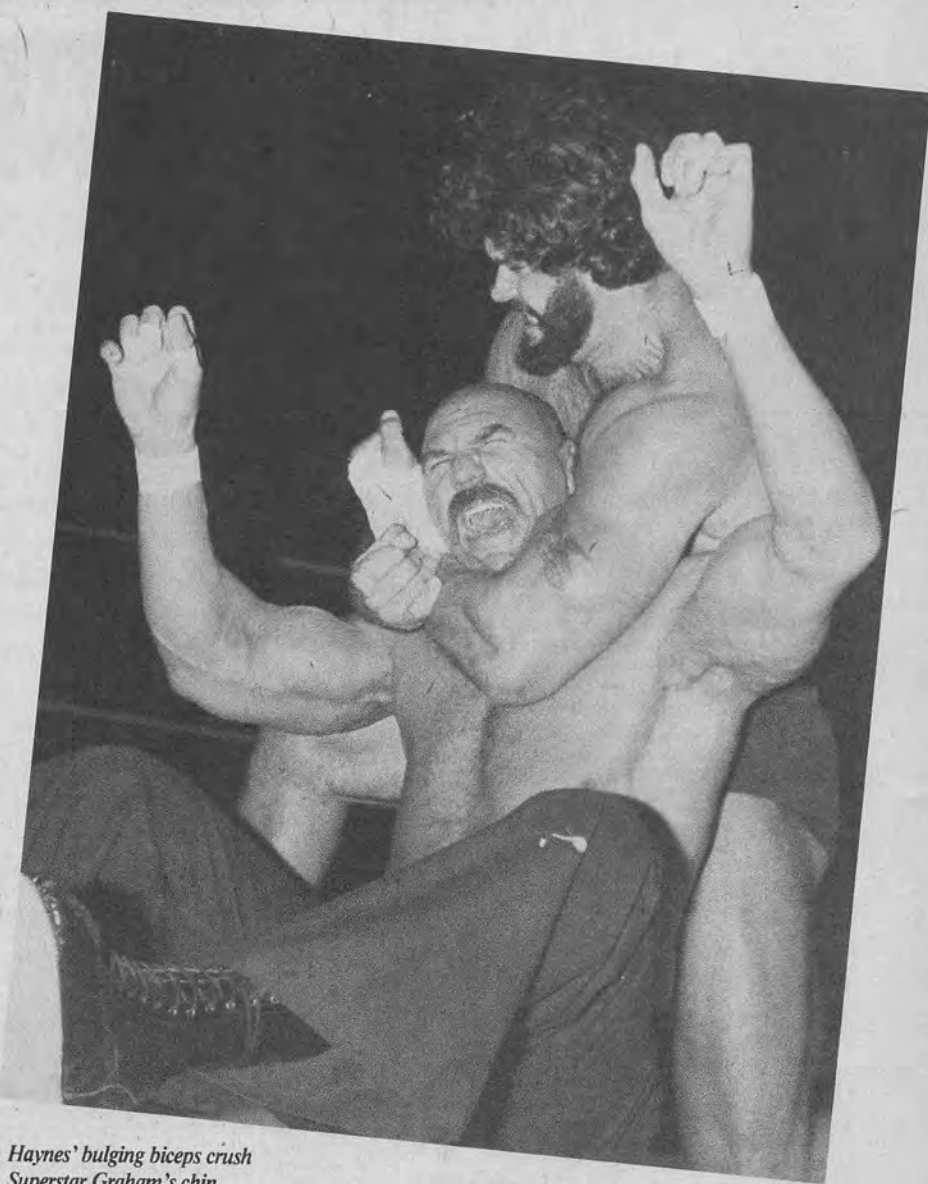
**B**ILLY JACK HAYNES winced from the pain, but he did not cry out.

"It's not a particularly bad fracture," the doctor said. "In a lot of ways you were very lucky. It could have been a lot worse."

The doctor was referring to an injury sustained when Billy was arm-wrestling Superstar Billy Graham. Billy beat Graham in that contest, but an angry Graham, aided by his manager, Sir Oliver Humperdink, and One Man Gang, went on to break apart the table being used for the arm-wrestling match and used the pieces to brutally attack Billy. The attack resulted in a broken left hand for Billy Haynes.

As Billy Haynes was being bandaged, a concerned Dusty Rhodes watched intently. "Listen here, doc," Rhodes said, "once this here bandage is wrapped on, what's the outlook gonna be for my man Billy here?" Dusty's concern for Billy's welfare was genuine. Dusty and Billy have been close friends ever since Billy arrived in Florida in January. The latest incident involving Billy has brought the two men even closer.

(Continued on page 12)



*Haynes' bulging biceps crush  
Superstar Graham's chin.*

---

***A few months ago, Billy Jack Haynes was making his reputation in Florida as one of wrestling's most promising stars. A series of matches against the hated Superstar Billy Graham were the focal point of Haynes' career then. Victory Sports Wrestling proudly takes you to ringside for this important moment in wrestling***



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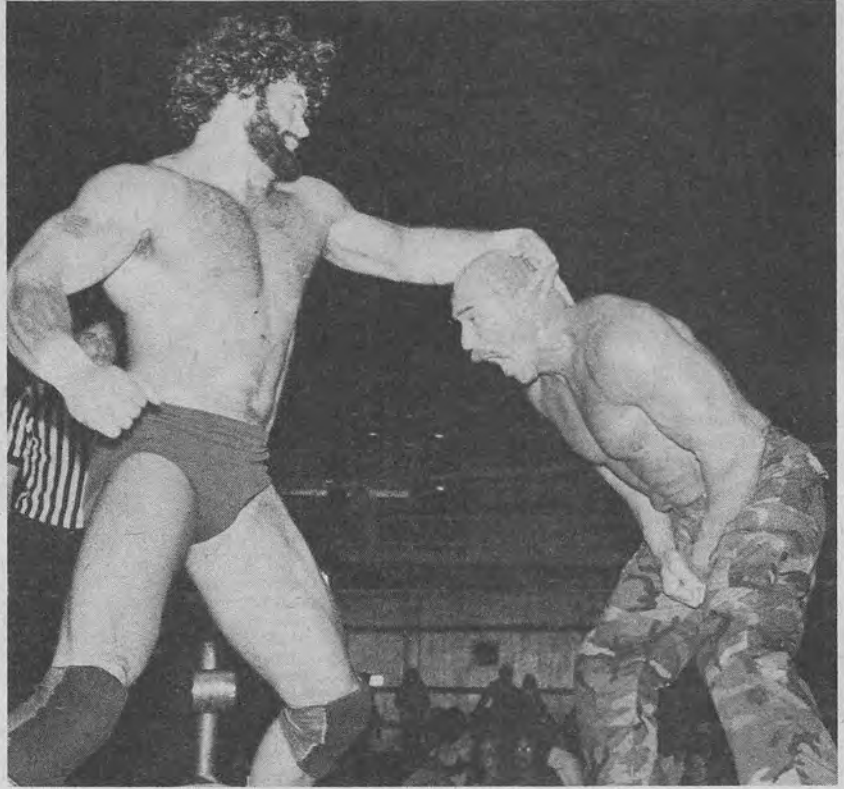
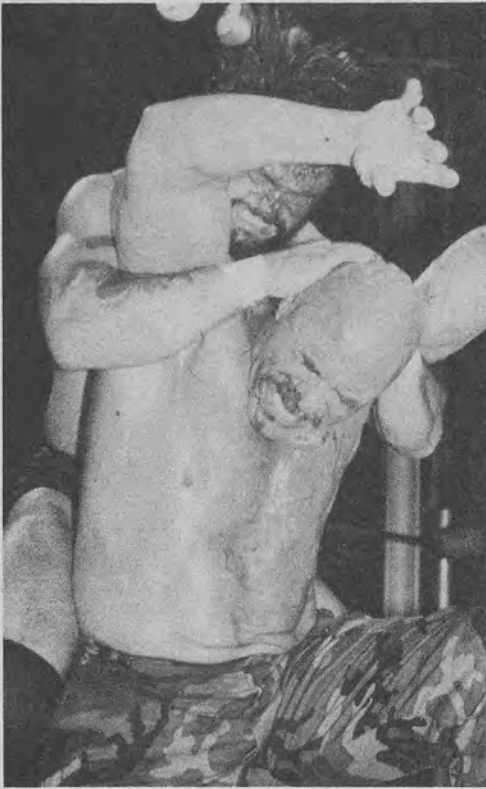
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## BILLY HAYNES

(Continued from page 10)



*Haynes received \$50,000 when he defeated Graham in a full-nelson challenge match (above left). Billy sets the Superstar up for a right hand (above right). Graham's bearhug is still among the five best in the sport (right).*

"Well, with this cast you'll still be able to wrestle," the doctor said, "but not for about a week. And even then you'll have lost some strength in that hand."

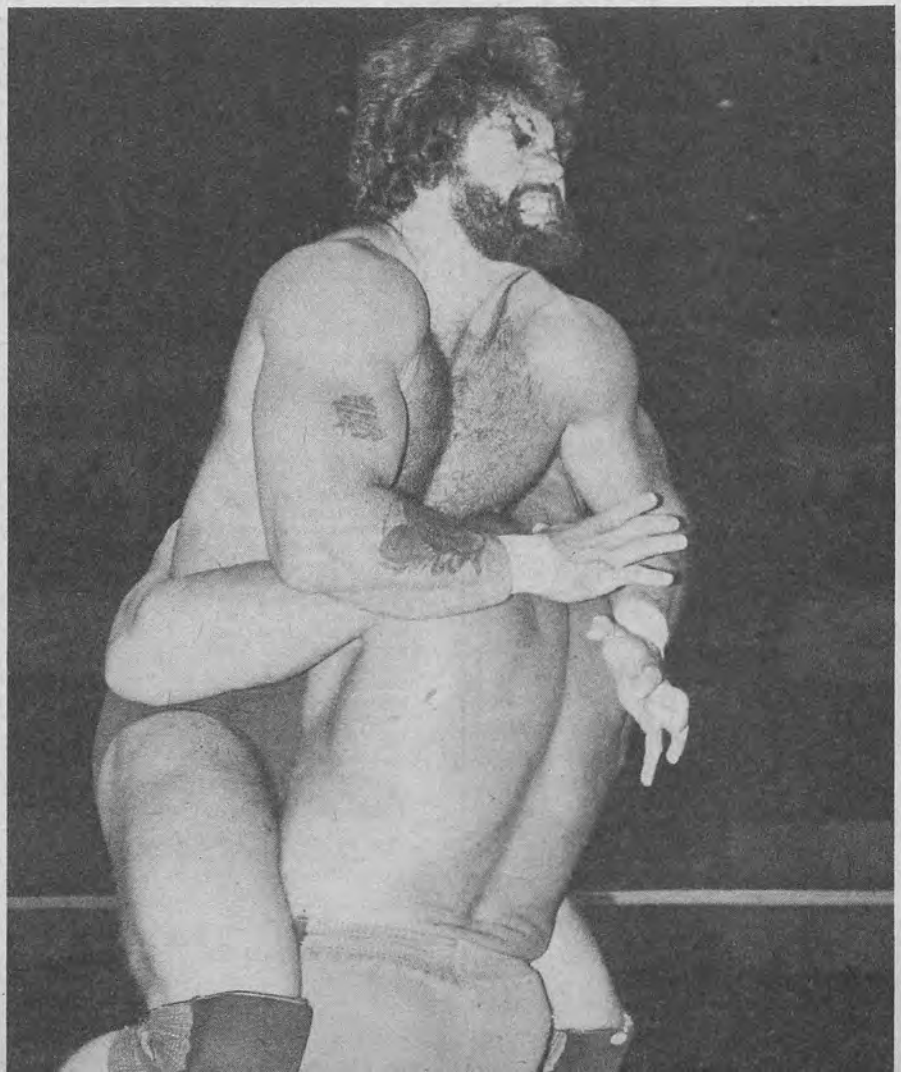
"How much?" Billy asked in a voice that was soft and measured.

"Well, I would advise that you be extremely careful about straining your left hand," the doctor said.

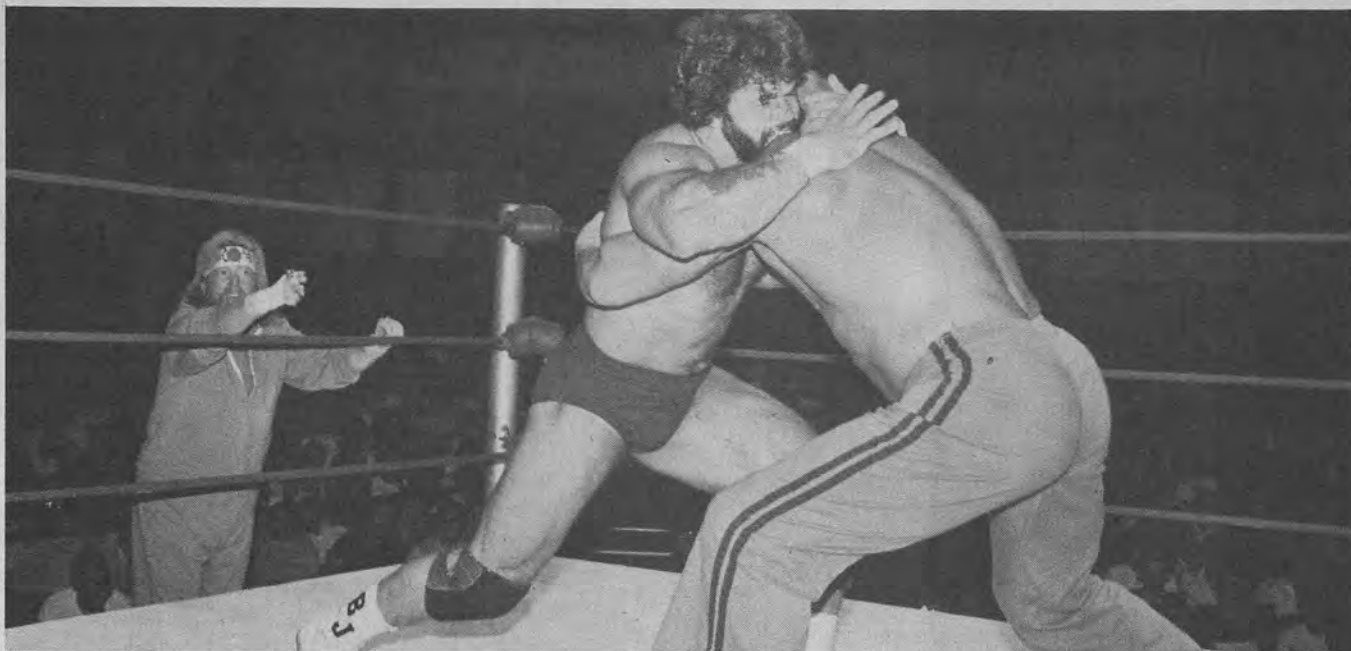
"What about the full nelson?" Billy asked.

"My advice is that you avoid using the full nelson at all, for at least three weeks and possibly for as long as eight weeks or more."

Billy looked at Dusty. "The American Dream" smiled and offered to fill in for him in those matches in which he couldn't wrestle. But the smile couldn't mask the disappointment he felt for his







*Sir Oliver Humperdink offers his charge encouragement as he falls into a clinch with Haynes (above). Billy viciously springs at his fallen opponent (right).*

friend.

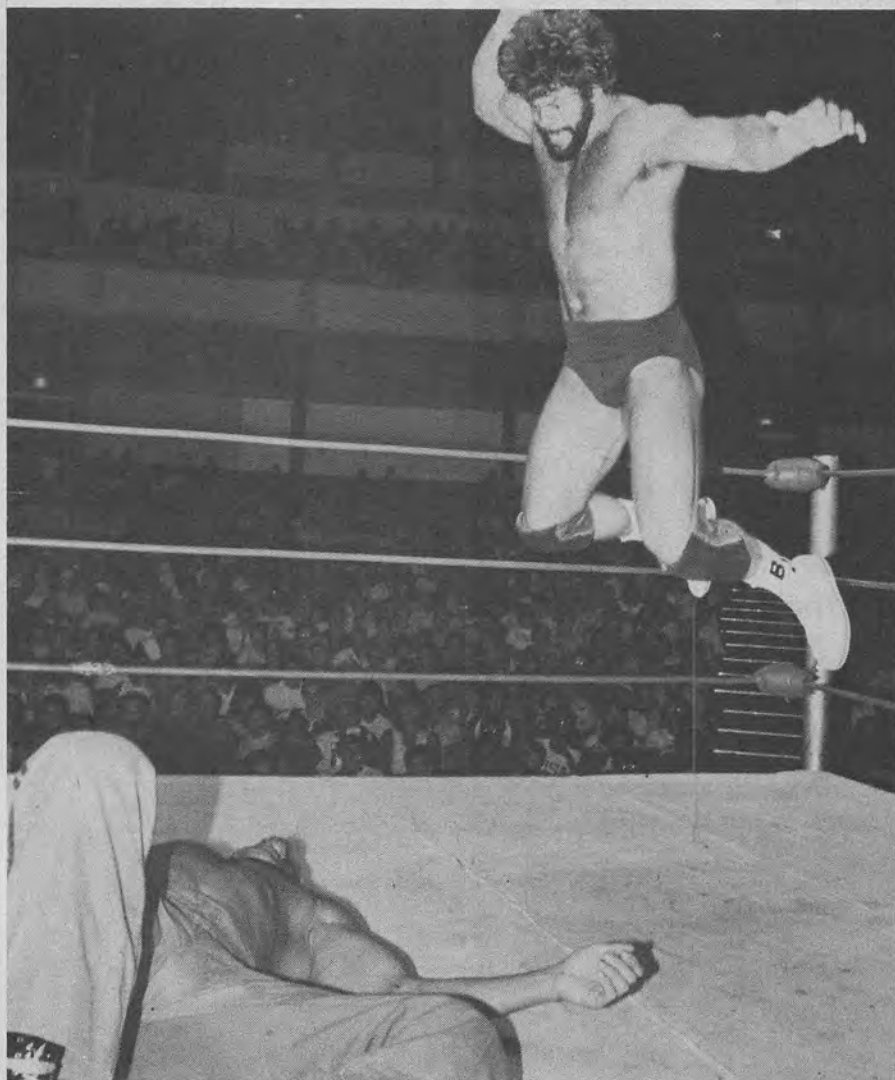
For Billy Haynes, then the Florida heavyweight champion, there would prove to be some very tough times ahead.

\*\*\*

"See, that's the kind of trickery that really gets me steamed," Billy Haynes told the reporter. "There's no call for that kind of garbage. It's the same kind of garbage they pulled in the arm-wrestling match. And then Graham goes out and tells the people he's champion? Ridiculous! How can he sleep at night knowing that the way he won the title was completely and blatantly illegal?"

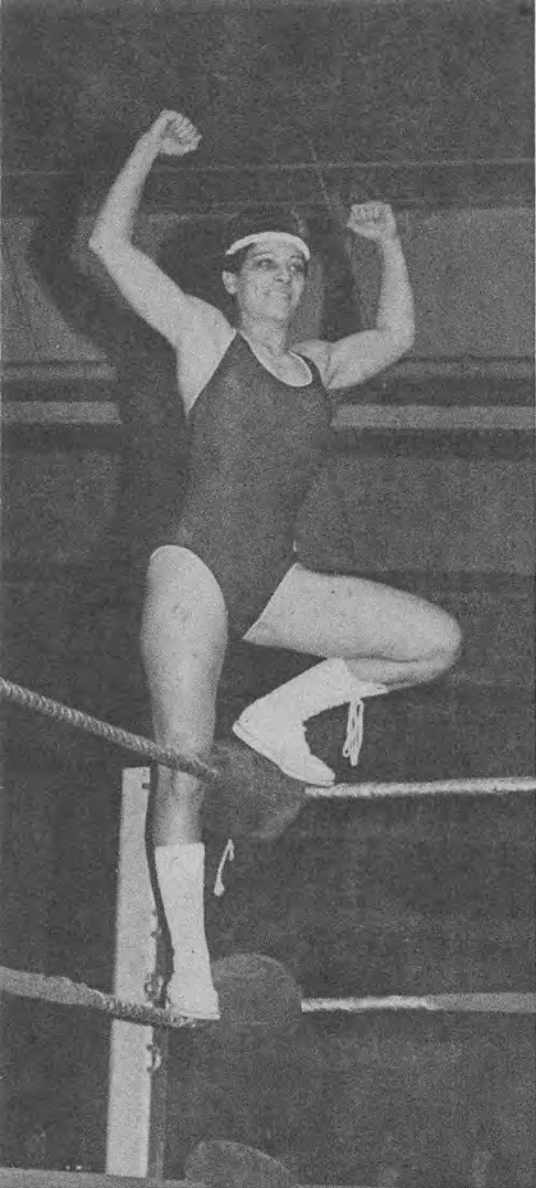
Billy was referring to a Florida heavyweight title match in which he lost the belt to Billy Graham on June 10 in Orlando, Florida. Graham had Billy covered for the pin, but Billy's foot was resting on the rope. Graham's manager, Sir Oliver Humperdink, knocked Billy Haynes' foot off the rope before the referee noticed the foot there in the first place. The pin was allowed and Graham won the title.

"I'm in this sport for the competition," Billy Haynes said. "I don't want to get caught up in all kinds



of feuds and vendettas. And I don't spend all those back-breaking hours in the gym working out so that some fat clown like Humperdink can steal the title away from me

like that. Or so that someone like Graham can go around boasting how he beat me. He didn't beat me, and he knows it. In a fair  
(Continued on page 48)

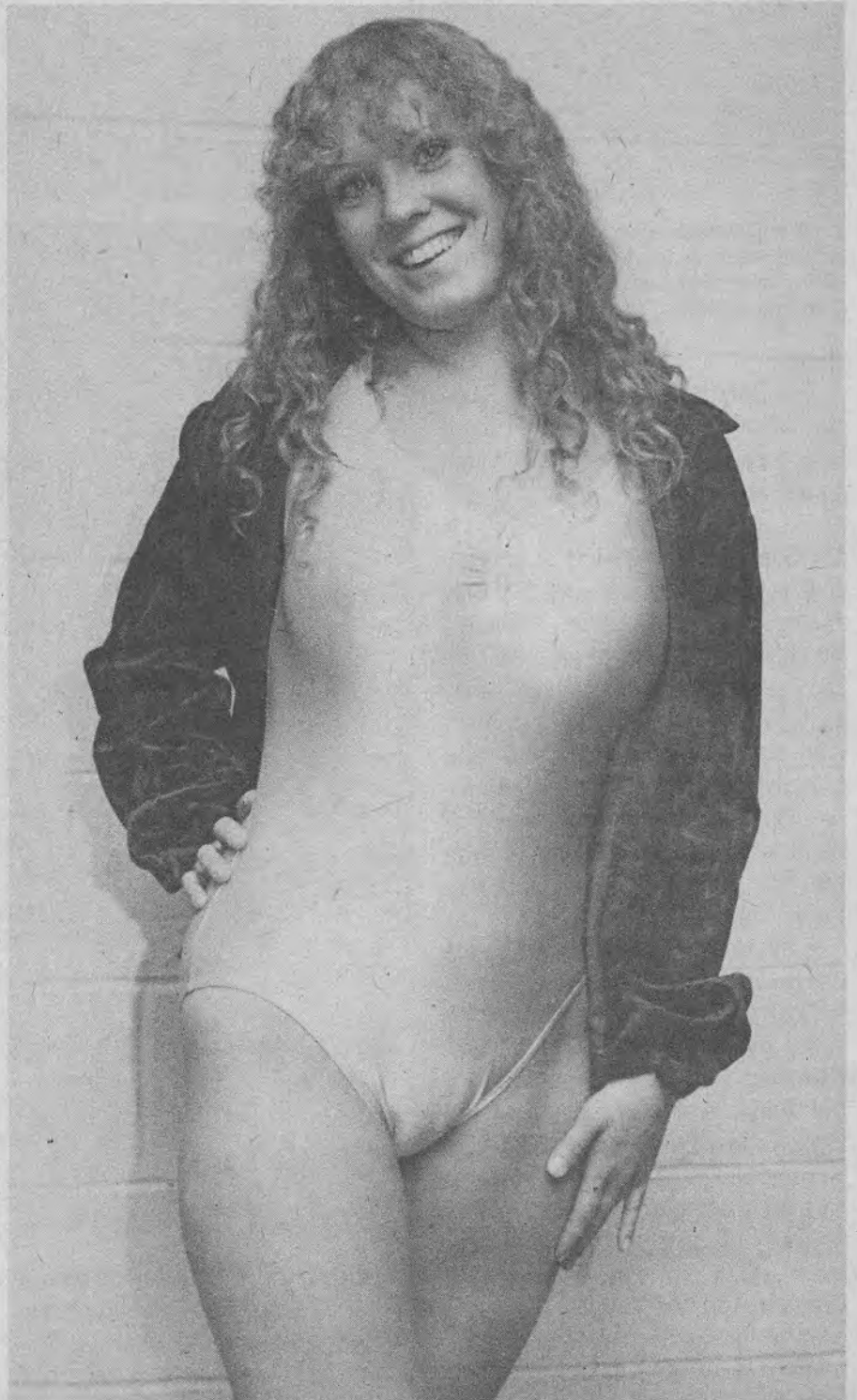


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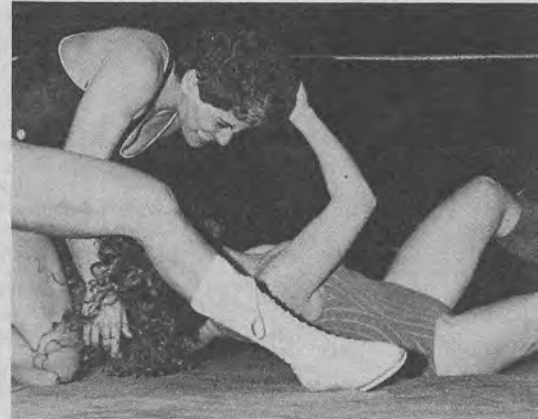


WENDI RICHTER

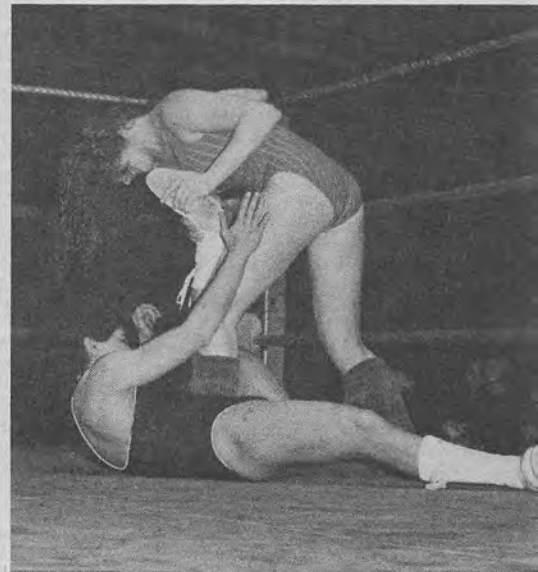
**L**INDENHURST IS A town of about 27,000 people located in Suffolk, the easternmost county on the great suburban expanse known as Long Island. You need to drive about 90 minutes from midtown Manhattan in order to get there, but it could take three hours if you hit traffic on the Long Island Expressway. One almost *always* hits traffic on the L.I.E.

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**TARGET:  
WENDI RICHTER**



*Nature Girl and Crystal Monroe rip at each other's hair (above). Monroe twists Nature Girl's leg around her knee (below). Will either of these women ever get the chance to wrestle Wendi Richter?*



to find anywhere in the country. Students there attend and cut classes, support their school teams in football, basketball, and baseball, and anxiously await the 3:00 bell sounding the end of the day.

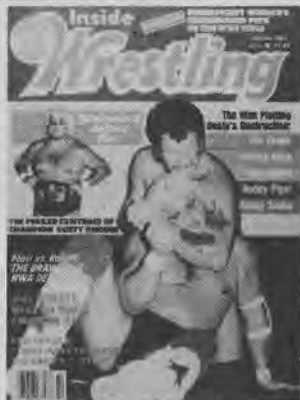
An average high school by any standards.

But on one particular early autumn  
(Continued from page 18)

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October 1977/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes, Backlund, Mulligan.

November 1977/Stories include: Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras, Gagne.

December 1977/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Johnson, Maivia.

March 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Valentine, Backlund, Bockwinkel.

April 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Steamboat, Bruiser.

August 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Andre, Hansen.

October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Rhodes, McDaniel.

November 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Backlund, Flair, Steamboat.

December 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Bravo.

January 1979/Stories include: Sammartino, Mulligan, Rhodes, Backlund.

February 1979/Stories include: Race, Sammartino, Steamboat, Ladd.

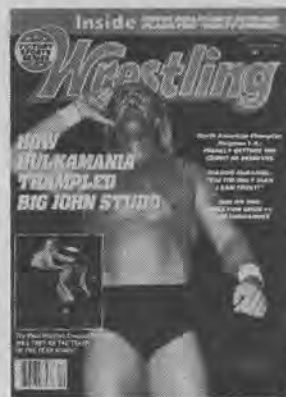
April 1979/Stories include: Andre, Flair, Backlund, Jones.

May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Rhodes, Backlund, Heenan.

June 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Superstar, Bockwinkel, Backlund.

July 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Ladd, Valiant, Brower.

August 1979/Stories include: Flair, Garvin, Race, Sammartino.



DECEMBER 1984

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May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.

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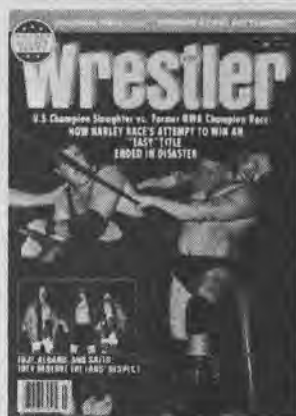
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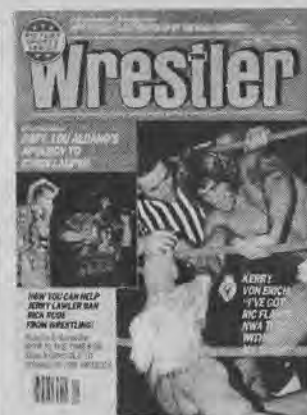
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## NATURE GIRL

(Continued from page 15)



When Nature Girl tries to escape a headlock by lifting her opponent into the air, Crystal Monroe retains her grip and flips her to the mat (above). Monroe twists Nature Girl's leg around her own (below).



evening, Lindenhurst High School was the site of a professional wrestling match that was anything *but* average.

The match: Nature Girl vs. Crystal Monroe.

"I had heard stories on the grapevine about Nature Girl," said *Victory Sports Wrestling* Senior Editor Bill Apter, "and I couldn't believe what I was hearing. I hadn't seen such enthusiasm for any new wrestler in years, particularly for a new woman wrestler.

"What impressed me immediately was the kind of enthusiasm this woman was getting," Apter said. "People were telling me that she is like a female Jimmy Snuka. That in itself is remarkable—those kinds of compliments aren't made unless there is some sort of validity to them."

And there most assuredly *was* validity to those compliments.

But in her match against Crystal Monroe, Nature Girl was *not* the Jim-

my Snuka who effortlessly flies off the top ropes and defeats his opponent with the "Superfly," although she did utilize the ropes more than most women wrestlers. She was *not* the Jimmy Snuka who speaks of love and togetherness as far as the fans are concerned.

She *was*, however, the Jimmy Snuka who fights with every iota of energy and emotion in order to achieve victory. She was the Jimmy Snuka who will do anything and everything in his power to obliterate a hated enemy such as Roddy Piper or Magnificent Muraco.

But if you talk to Nature Girl, you'll find that she dismisses any comparisons between herself and Snuka.

"If you want to compare me to anyone," Nature Girl says with a razor-sharp edge on each syllable, "compare me to Moolah. I have as much wrestling talent as she does, I just don't command the attention she does. Hey—have you ever seen Moolah fly off the top ropes with a bodypress? Not in the last 20 years, that's for sure, not the way I do! Look how I used that flying bodypress to pin Monroe tonight!"

What about the new World Women's wrestling champion, Wendi Richter?

"I'd *love* to have a match against that bimbo!" Nature Girl replies. "What's the biggest thing she's got going for her? Cyndi Lauper. Big deal. Does Lauper know wrestling? No. All she knows is how to make her face up to look like a complete idiot, and she's got Richter doing the same thing. See, Richter is forgetting about wrestling. She's too worried about becoming an MTV star. And she's getting soft. Anybody with half a brain can see it.

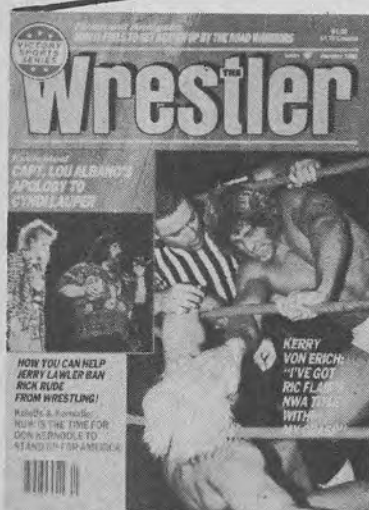
"Hell, I spent three years in the Navy, and I beat up every bimbo petty officer, warrant officer, ensign, and lieutenant. I even decked a couple of scuzzy commanders and captains who tried to pick fights with me. And believe me, there were a lot of 'em. Yeah, I'd beat Richter in five minutes flat. And I'd love the chance to do it."

In contrast, Nature Girl's opponent  
(Continued on page 50)

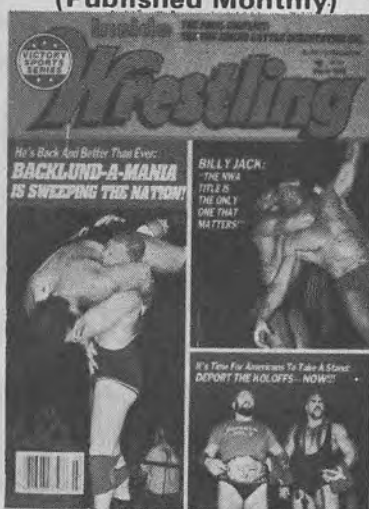


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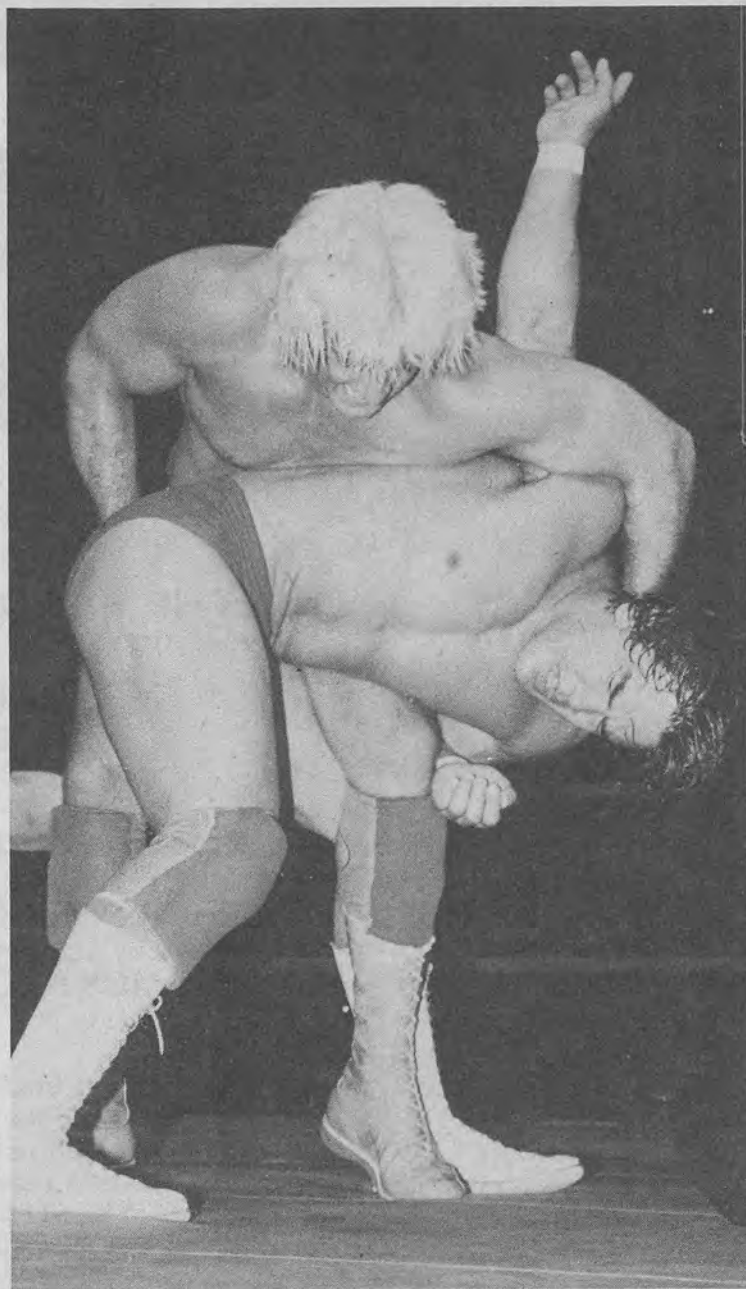
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# RICK STEAMBOAT WHY HE WAS AFFRAID TO BE NWA CHAMPION

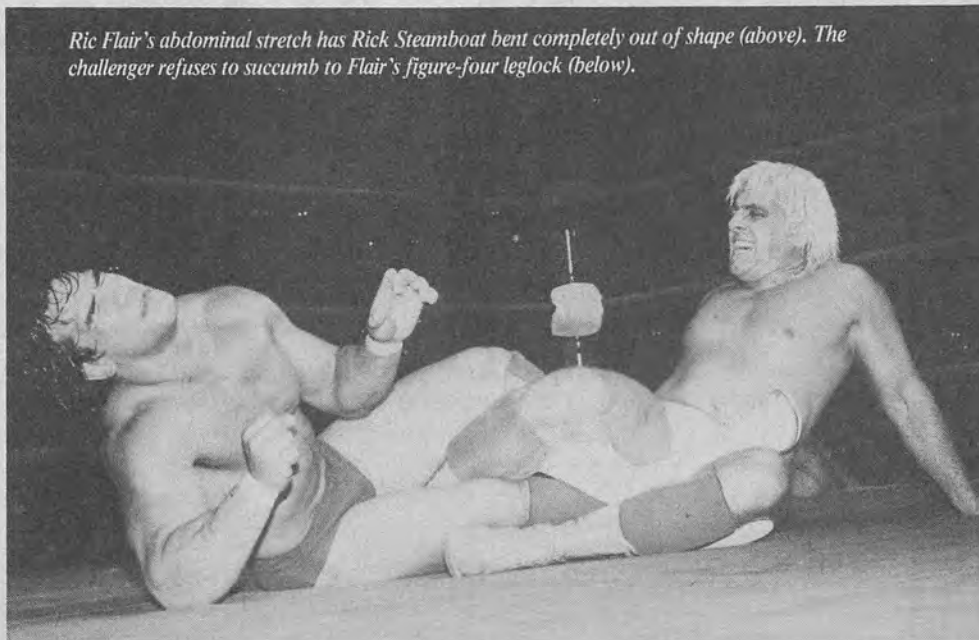
*Rick Steamboat rocked the wrestling world with his announcement that he would only be able to be a part-time wrestler because of time limitations. Ever since, people have been wondering why he would not devote all his energies to capturing a world title. For the first time, those who know Steamboat best are ready to talk about why a man refuses to realize his destiny*



**W**HEN AN ATHLETE semi-retires at his peak, rumors are bound to start. Everyone has a theory as to why he deserts what he does and loves best. It's hard to accept that anyone would voluntarily surrender what most men dream of doing.

When Rick Steamboat announced he would reduce his schedule, people couldn't believe it. Long regarded as one of the best—if not *the* best—scientific tag team partner in wrestling, Rick was always mentioned when it came to naming which young grapplers had a chance at the NWA World heavyweight wrestling title.

*Ric Flair's abdominal stretch has Rick Steamboat bent completely out of shape (above). The challenger refuses to succumb to Flair's figure-four leglock (below).*





Then, when he seemed on the brink of a championship, came the announcement of his semi-retirement. It shook a lot of people. There was talk at first of it all being a plot, a cunning maneuver to catch the champion unaware. Steamboat would train in secret while the champion would ignore him. Then, when the time was right, Steamboat would make his challenge.

Many people kept waiting for Steamboat to make the challenge, and they were right. But once he made his bid for the title and failed, he began to devote more and more time to his gymnasium.



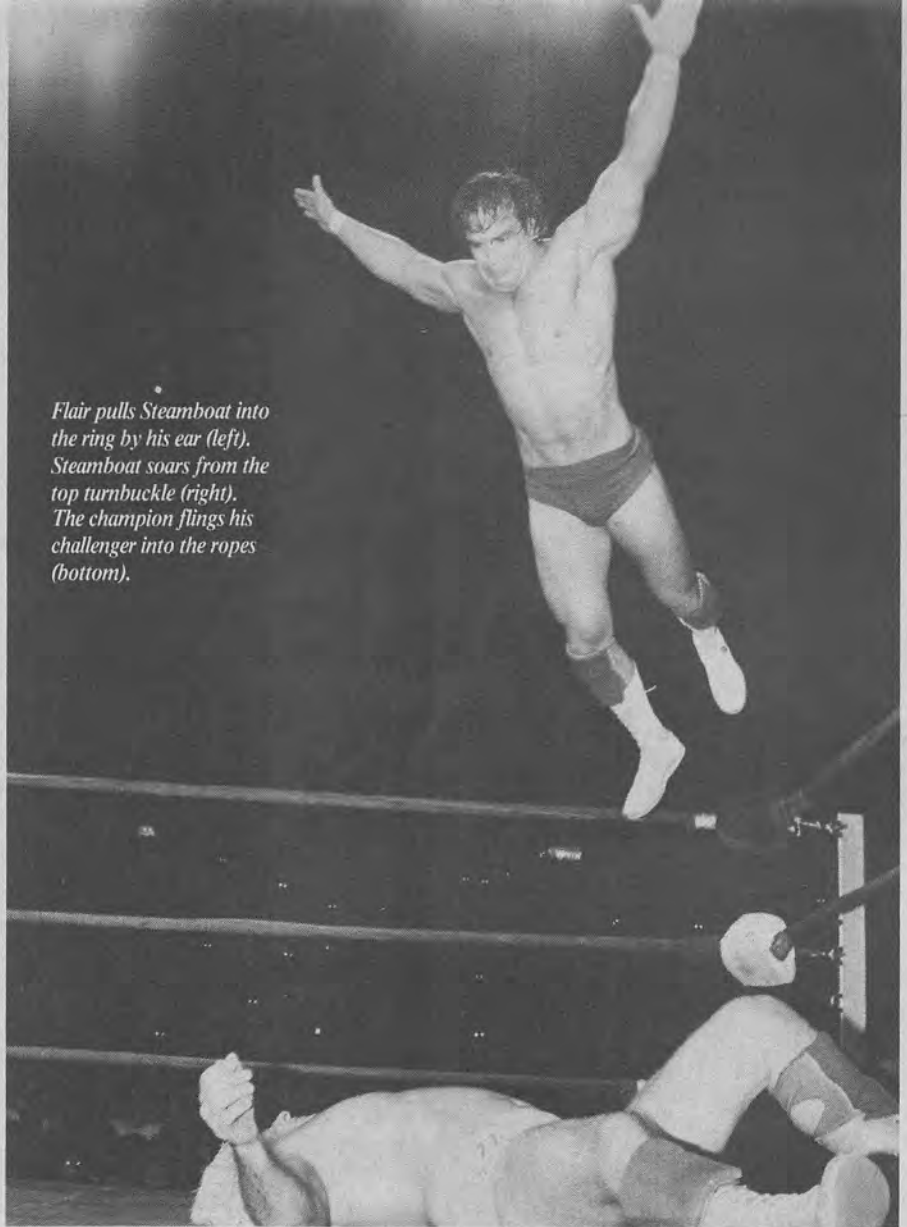
It appeared as if the life of a part-time wrestler and full-time businessman appealed to him. That's when the other rumors started.

Many people thought Steamboat was ill but didn't want anyone to know. They kept looking for signs of disease. Rick, however, continued to be in the best of health.

Officially, Steamboat kept insisting he was enjoying life as a gymnasium owner and sometime wrestler. He might not be in line for a title shot, but that was fine with him.

"To be champion," he explained, "you have to really want to win the title. It becomes your

*Flair pulls Steamboat into the ring by his ear (left). Steamboat soars from the top turnbuckle (right). The champion flings his challenger into the ropes (bottom).*



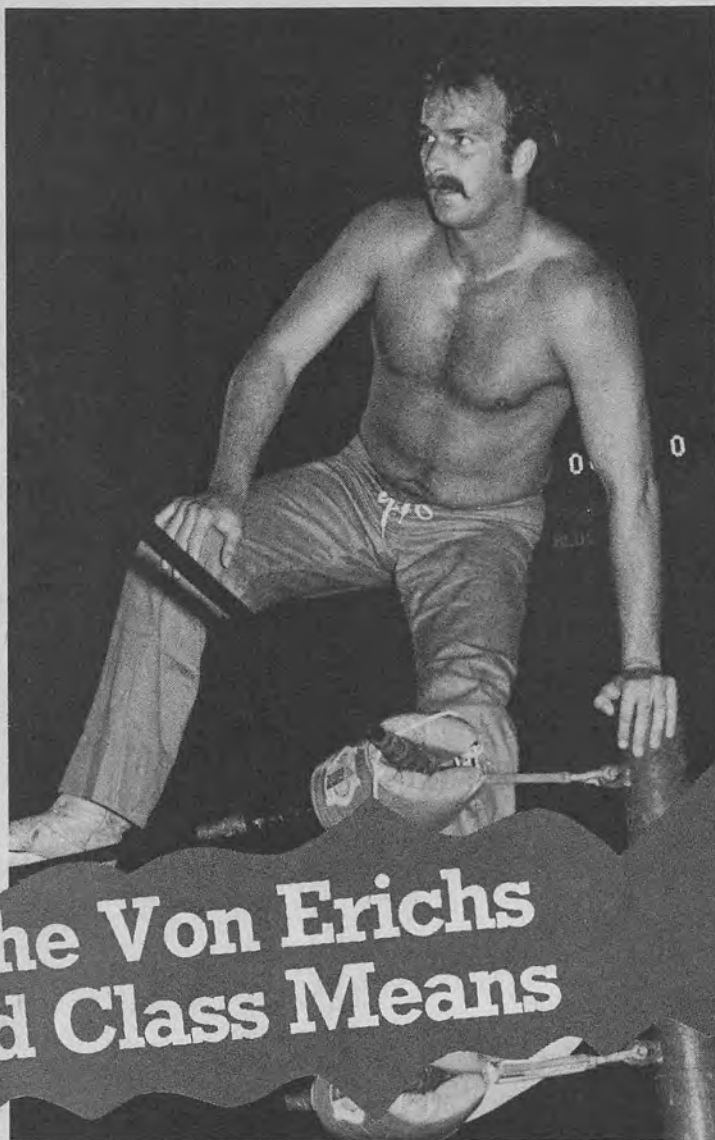
whole life. You're forced to travel all over the world, endlessly preparing for tough matches with the best men in the sport, and there's no time for anything else. I don't have the time to commit. But I can keep wrestling and never be World champion. I'm happy. And I know more than a few champions who could never say that."

Those closest to Rick think the truth lies in the above statement, though disguised. They're willing to talk about their friend for publication, but only if they're guaranteed anonymity. Before going any further, it should be noted that none of them approve of what Rick has done. This certainly colors their judgment. All wish Rick would return to wrestling full-time and go after the title.

*(Continued on page 52)*

# JAKE ROBERTS:

I'll Show The Von Erichs  
What World Class Means



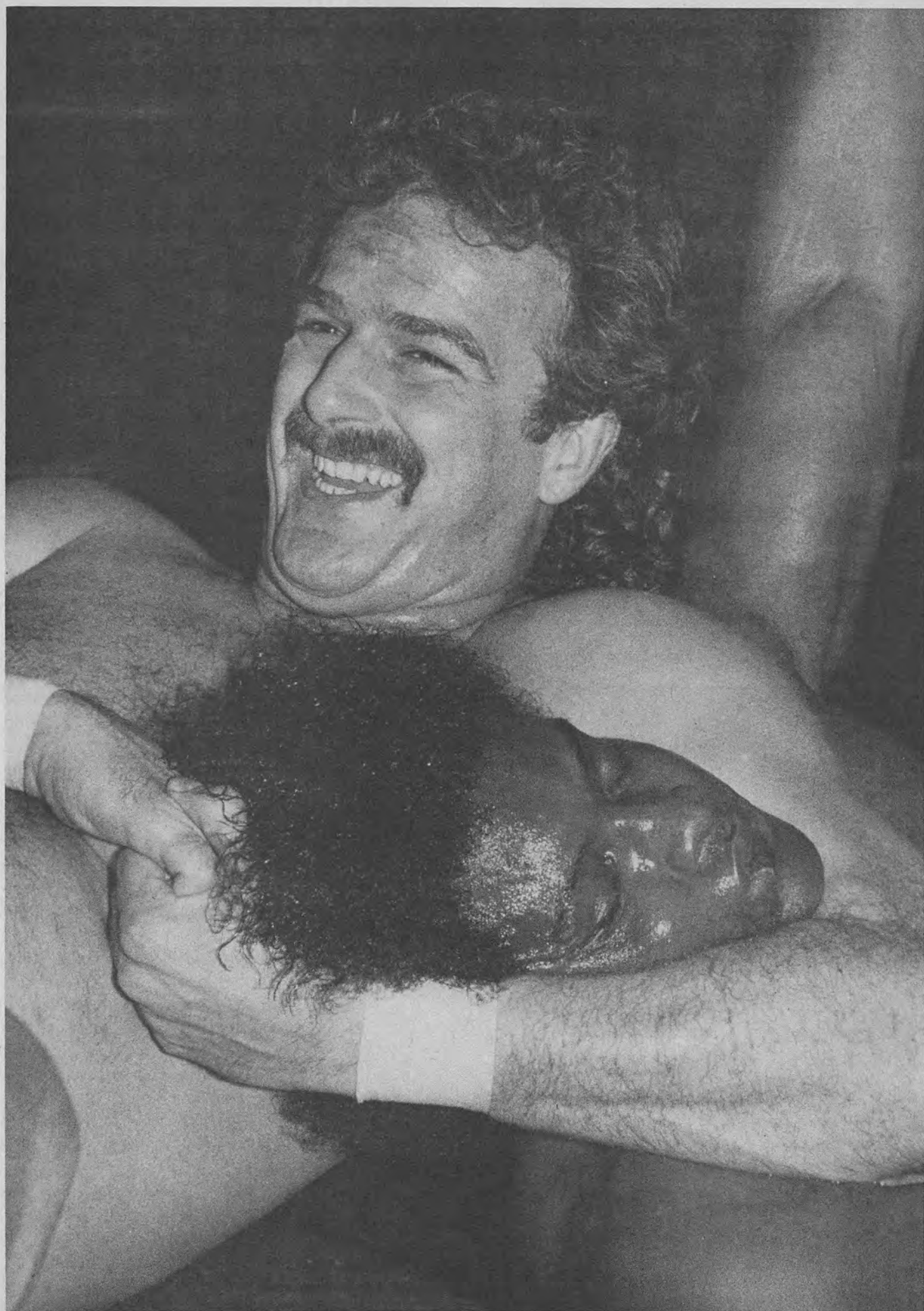
Jake "The Snake" Roberts is a relative newcomer to the Texas World Class wrestling area, but he's already established a reputation there that has not exactly endeared him to the fans. Always cocky, always smug, Roberts' aim is to dominate the World Class scene. That means the unparalleled reputation of the Von Erichs has got to be destroyed

A SINGLE SPOTLIGHT follows Jake "The Snake" Roberts as he walks slowly and deliberately to the ring. The crowd in the arena boos, but their hatred doesn't bother Roberts. He smiles, twisting his face into the kind of grin that makes it absolutely clear that this man cannot, under any circumstances, be trusted.

Roberts, clad in sweat pants rather than conventional wrestling trunks, walks to the ring and caresses the bottom rope. As he does so, he turns to the fans at ringside, his smile widening, and he drinks in their abuse. Suddenly, the broad grin transforms into a snarl and the muscles above his eyes tense together in a tight bundle. Small purple veins in Roberts' temples threaten to pop through the very skin near his ears. All the energy in Roberts' body

*(Continued on page 24)*





## JAKE ROBERTS

(Continued from page 22)

seems to well up into his head. His face, flushed with blood, deepens several shades in color.

"What are you screaming at!" Roberts barks to one of the ringside spectators. "Look! Pay attention! This is the future of World Class

wrestling!"

Roberts spits on the floor, turns away from the fans, and—true to his nickname—slithers under the bottom rope and into the ring.

Once on his feet again, Roberts' face is once again contorted into

that sinister grin. "Pay attention, everyone!" he mutters under his breath, his words barely audible even to those in the very first row.

"This is this! It's not anything else, this is this! And this will rule the World Class area before any of you simpletons realize what's going on."

The bell rings and Roberts moves out against his opponent. Less than 10 minutes later, he has scored yet another pinfall victory. He has moved up another notch in the World Class area ratings. And he has impressed another packed arena full of wrestling fans with his skills, his determination, and his desire to go straight to the top.

\*\*\*

**J**AKE ROBERTS DOES not like to grant interviews. I considered myself lucky when he consented to let me interview him over the phone. There was one stipulation, though. "This interview has a 15-minute time limit," Roberts said.

With such a short time for an interview, I couldn't waste any time on small talk. I started off by asking Roberts why he decided to leave the Georgia area in favor of the World Class area.

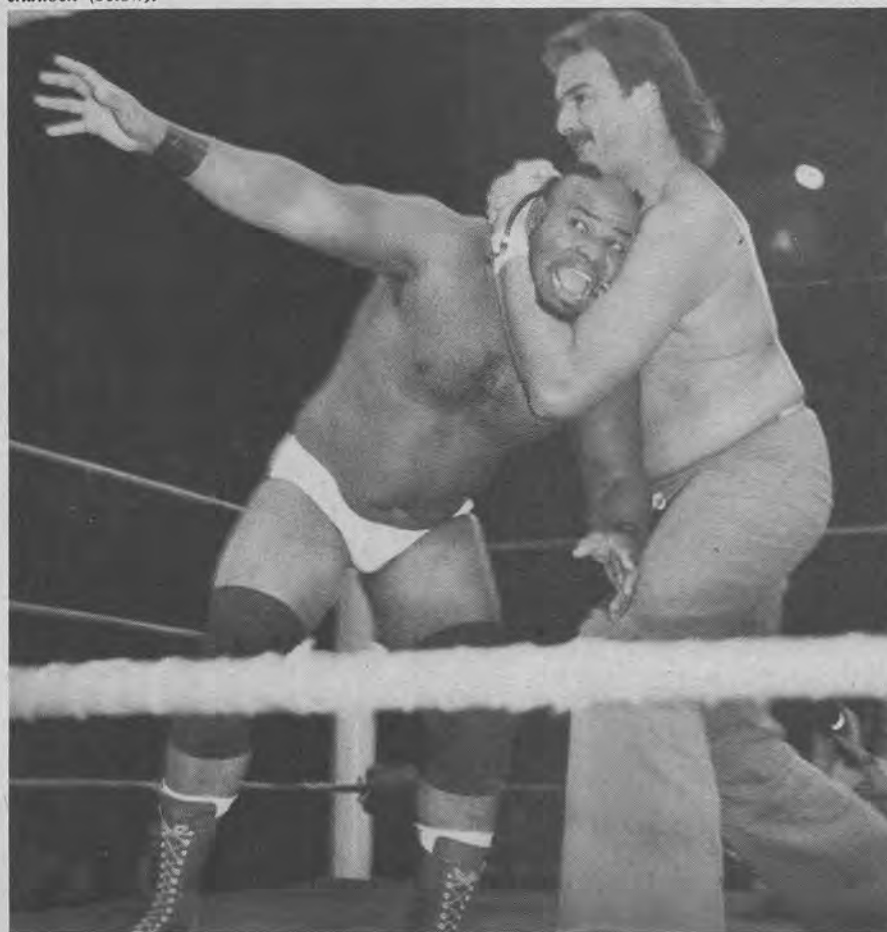
"I'm not going to go into the complete details of a situation that amounted to total conspiracy," Roberts replied. "Like I've told people before when they ask me this question: There are times in every man's life when he has to walk away from a good thing. There may be positive aspects to what you're doing at the time, a job, say, or a relationship, but ultimately you've got to live with yourself, right? You've got to be able to sleep well. Sure, I was getting very rich wrestling in the Georgia area, beating Ronnie Garvin senseless night after night, but it can get boring beating the same man all the time."

I asked Roberts if boredom was the only reason he left Georgia.

"Boredom . . . and the fact that the referees who were officiating my matches were obviously biased and incompetent," Roberts said. "I don't



Jake Roberts is happy that the balance of power in the World Class area is shifting to Chris Adams, Gary Hart, Gino Hernandez, and Nicola Roberts (above). Jake ensnares Iceman Parsons in a chinlock (below).







Kerry Von Erich tries to power his way out of Roberts' grasp. Jake has plans for the entire Von Erich family.

need that kind of crap. I'm better than that. I have the potential to rule any wrestling area in the country. But in Georgia, there was a... well, everyone uses the word 'conspiracy' and reacts very strongly to it, but I suppose that's the best word for it. A conspiracy against me, against Paul Ellering, and against The Legion of Doom. A conspiracy against keeping us from being as successful as we could have been, and as successful as we should have been."

So why did Roberts choose to go to the World Class area?

"Look, I sat down and I looked at things logically," he said. "There were a lot of places I could have gone. There was a possibility of going back to Florida at one point. I could have gone to the Mid-Atlantic, you see, I have a lot of friends there. But the World Class area seemed to be the one area that I could conquer and still expend a minimum of effort. Because that's what it's all about, isn't it? Success without work. After all, you work your fingers to the bone and what do you get? Bony fingers, the song says. Me? I'm going to the top, and I'm cruising all the way."

I pointed out to Roberts that in  
(Continued on page 54)

# Wrestling 85

## "For Today's Wrestling Fan"

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## Wrestling 85

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***The Best Keeps Getting Better!***

# BRUISER BRODY & STAN HANSEN

Today  
Puerto Rico,  
Tomorrow  
The AWA?



**A brutal tag team match in Puerto Rico saw two formidable powerhouses—Bruiser Brody and Stan Hansen—joining forces against the team of Carlos Colon and King Tonga. Was the Brody-Hansen team simply a one-shot affair, or is Brody scouting a permanent new tag team partner to aid him in his conquest of the AWA?**

**S**TAN HANSEN TOOK the tag from his partner, Bruiser Brody. As his 283-pound body charged into the ring, Hansen thrust his right arm into the air, extended his index and pinky fingers in his characteristic salute, and let out a Texas war cry that seemed to begin at his feet and grow louder with each inch as it

approached his mouth.

"Hoooo!" Hansen howled. Seconds later he was choking King Tonga on the ropes, yelling at no one in particular as he did so:

"Look at this punk! Take this! Hahaha! Texas justice! Hoooo!"

And in the corner of the ring, Bruiser Brody smiled in admiration of the destructive tactics of

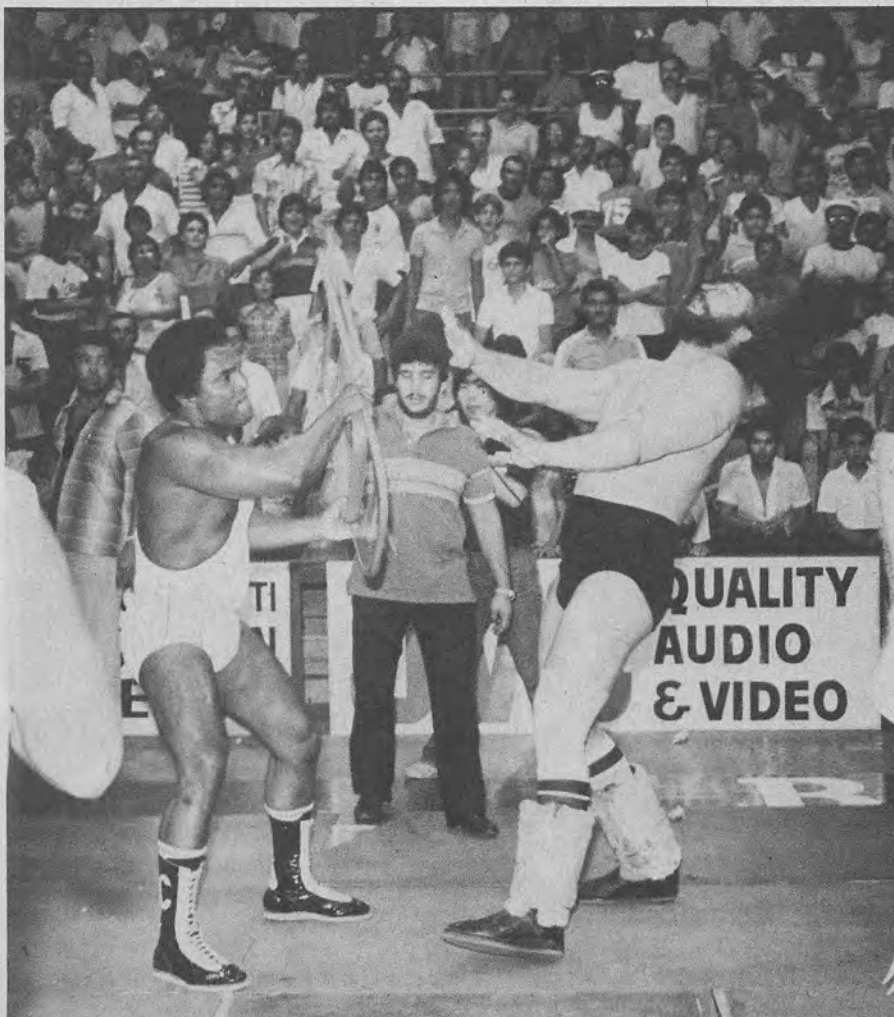
his tag team partner.

Brody and Hansen, who defeated fan favorites Tonga and Carlos Colon on this night, are the most feared combination in Puerto Rico. Several prominent Puerto Rican promoters will not have them compete in their arenas due to the heavy damage they tend to inflict to the dressing room areas,





The powerful Stan Hansen drives King Tonga to the canvas (left). King Kong Brody chops Tonga in the throat (below). Brody cowers as Carlos Colon comes at him with a chair (bottom).



the ring, and, most of all, to their opponents.

One Puerto Rican promoter spoke to *The Wrestler* about the team of Hansen and Brody, but wished to remain anonymous to avoid possible retaliation by the team.

"The last time I booked them into one of my arenas," the promoter said, "they caused total havoc. I don't know what they did to psych themselves up before their match, but they totally destroyed my dressing rooms: three broken tables, four broken mirrors, two lockers rendered completely useless ... and I can't count the number of broken chairs.

"Then, during the match, they started slamming chairs all over the place, in the ring, at ringside, over their opponents' heads. There were wooden chairs and metal chairs spread around the arena. I forget whether it was Hansen or Brody, but one of them slammed one of the wooden



Most recently, Brody has invaded the AWA under the management of Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie. Brody has cut a bloody swath through the area in his singles matches, and speculation has arisen that Al-Kaissie is looking for the proper tag team partner with whom Brody can take the AWA World belts from Baron Von Raschke and The Crusher.

*(Continued on page 55)*

chairs to bits on the ring apron, and the splinters went flying. They picked up the splintered wood and were just about to use them on their opponents when about 12 other wrestlers came in to stop them.

"I confronted Brody and Hansen about what they did at the end of the night, after they had showered and were ready to leave," the promoter said. "They just laughed in my face and left the arena slapping each other on their backs like they had just completed a job well done. After that, I vowed never to have Hansen or Brody in any of my arenas ever again."

But it's that very penchant for reckless destruction that has provided Brody and Hansen with their unique reputations.

"Hansen is a wildman," said Colon in his dressing room after the match. "Pound for pound, he's one of the strongest men in the sport, and he uses any and all means at his disposal for unleashing that strength on his opponent."

"Brody is simply a maniac," Colon said, "but he's a maniac under control. He has an extensive knowledge of scientific moves and maneuvers, and he couples that with an uncanny attitude of total recklessness. I wouldn't want

to step into the ring against him, no matter how big I was or how much experience I had. He's too dangerous a man."

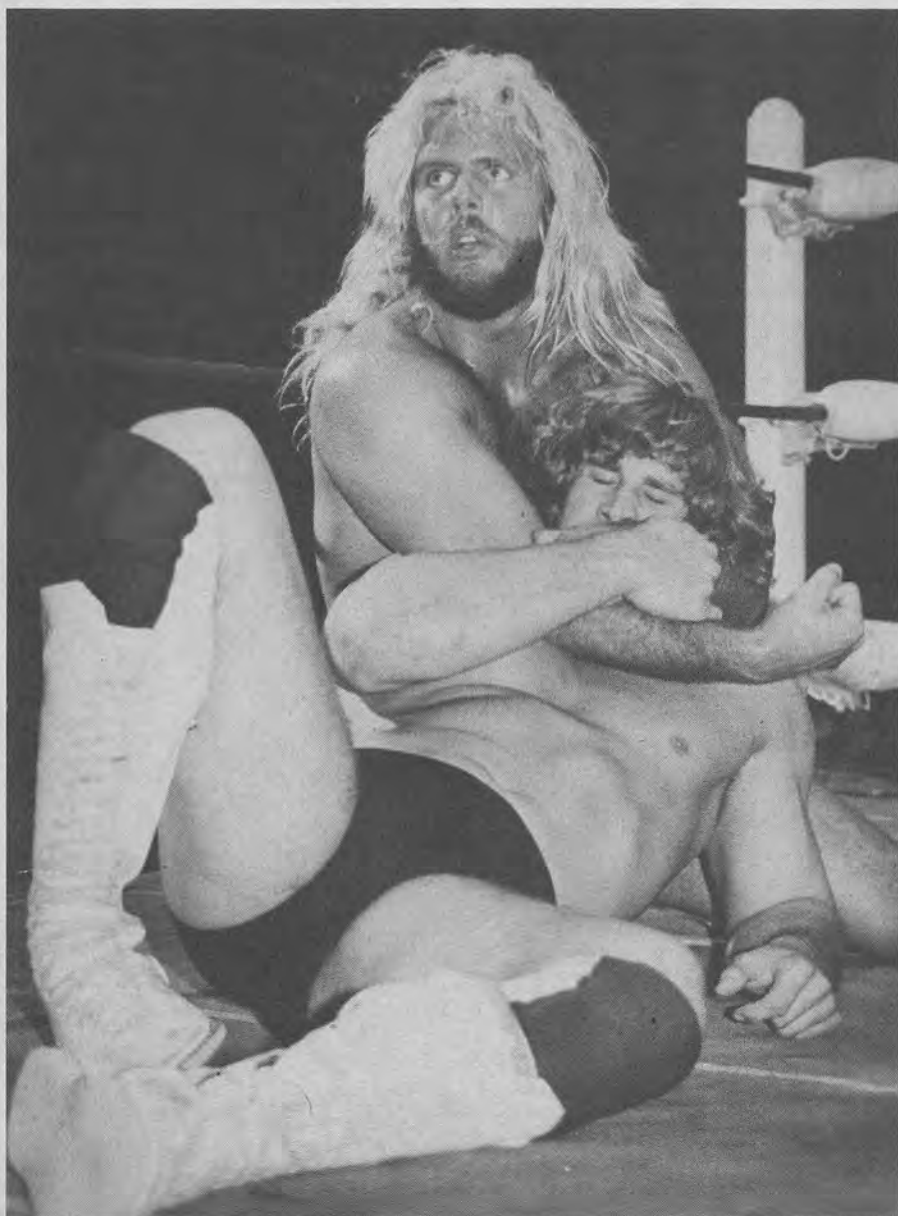
*Colon refers to Hansen as a "wildman" and to Brody as a "maniac." He felt he recruited the perfect partner—King Tonga—for this tag team battle. Hansen tries to back Colon into the corner, but the WWC Universal champion stops him with an uppercut (left). Tonga anticipates the pain of being bodyslammed by Brody (below).*





# The Fabulous Freebirds: IS MICHAEL HAYES READY TO FLY SOLO?

The Fabulous Freebirds have long been one of wrestling's top tag teams. The acknowledged leader of The Freebirds, Michael Hayes, is currently pursuing a career in rock 'n' roll. Will Hayes' lust for heavy metal stardom destroy the wrestling careers of his Freebird brothers, Terry Gordy and Buddy Roberts?



**C**LAD IN A leather vest and leather pants, Freebird Michael Hayes was somewhere that lately has become as familiar to him as the wrestling ring: the rock 'n' roll stage.

Hayes held a microphone in his left hand and snarled out the chorus of a heavy metal tune:

*Badstreet, Atlanta G.A./Baddest street in the whole U.S.A./Badstreet, nasty and hot/The further down the block you went, the badder it got!*

The song was "Badstreet U.S.A.," a raw rock song that of late has become a favorite topic of conversation for Hayes. "Badstreet U.S.A.," written by Hayes and Jimmy Papa, a professional musician from Irving, Texas, is the subject of a rock video which, according to Hayes, is headed for airplay on MTV.

I spoke with Hayes recently during a rehearsal with his Fantasia Band in Irving.

"Michael Hayes and the Fantasia Band," Hayes said with satisfaction. "Kind of has a nice ring to it, eh Steve? This is the band that played on the single. We're breaking out on all kinds of charts. Our song's been played all over Texas and Georgia, it's been featured on the top heavy metal radio shows in the country, and the video ought to be on MTV before you know it. This is big, brother, the biggest thing that The Freebirds have ever done. And it's getting bigger every day—Freebird Fantasia is on the move!"

But if Freebird Fantasia is on the move in the rock world, what does that say for Freebird Fantasia as far as the world of professional wrestling is concerned?



Michael Hayes has his hair brushed before the taping of "Badstreet U.S.A." as an impatient-looking Buddy Roberts and Terry Gordy look on (above). Hayes didn't fare well as a solo in a cage match against Kerry Von Erich (right). Hayes belts out "Badstreet U.S.A." (bottom) when his time could better be spent belting out opponents.



After all, an individual only has a limited amount of time and a limited number of resources. Freebird Michael Hayes is no exception.

If Hayes is spending so much energy on making "Badstreet U.S.A." a success, won't this take away from the excellence of The Freebirds as a tag

team? Does Hayes' involvement in music mean that his interest in wrestling is waning? And does the fact that Hayes is stepping into the rock 'n' roll world mean that he's preparing to step out on his own as a Freebird? Will Hayes begin to grow so accustomed to the solo spotlight that he'll turn his

back on fellow Freebirds Terry Gordy and Buddy Roberts?

All valid questions, and all important to an understanding of where Hayes' career is headed.

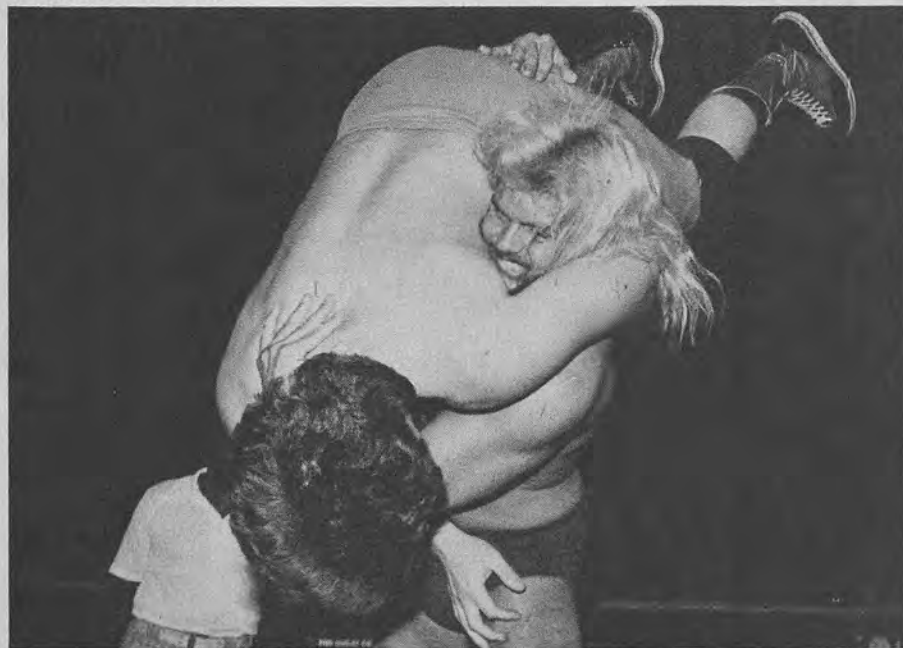
I asked Hayes if he felt his involvement in rock 'n' roll is detracting from his career as a professional wrestler.





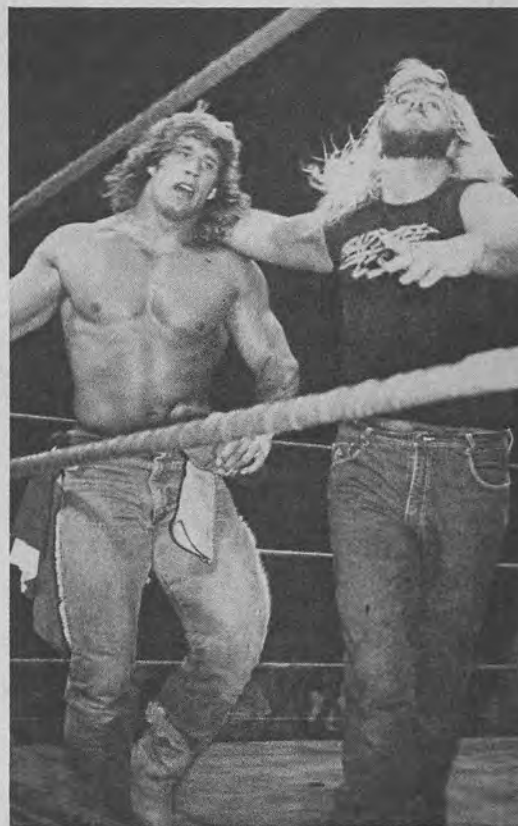


*Hayes stomps Kamala, who is held in place by Gordy (above). The Freebirds' teamwork is legendary. Michael engages in a street brawl with Kerry Von Erich (top right). Steve O is the victim of a Michael Hayes bodyslam (below).*



"No way, brother, not at all," he said. "If anything, it's *adding* to my career as a wrestler. I get a feeling of raw energy flowing through me when I'm on the stage, and it's the same

kind of energy that I get when I step into the wrestling ring. Hey, being on stage and singing is like a physical workout for me. I'm not just standing there, I'm moving around, jumping,



dancing. Anyone who doesn't think that's not physically demanding ought to try it sometime!"

But veteran wrestling announcer Gordon Solie, who has followed The Freebirds' career for years, isn't as certain as Hayes is about the plausibility of having a dual career.

"I'm unquestionably considered a purist as far as the sport of wrestling is concerned," Solie told me. "I admire most of the young men who are able to devote themselves 100 percent to the sport. Men who immerse themselves in training, strategy, and even charity work that is connected with the sport. I'm talking about young men like Brad Armstrong, Billy Jack, Barry Windham, Rick Steamboat, and so forth.

"Now Michael Hayes says he can juggle two careers," Solie continued. "And for now maybe he can. But what if his 'Badstreet U.S.A.' song becomes a big hit and he's called upon to do an extensive tour with his Fantasia band? Then this would *have* to detract from his wrestling career, no questions asked. I don't see how he could deny that fact, unless he's simply blinded by the prospect of becoming a rock star.

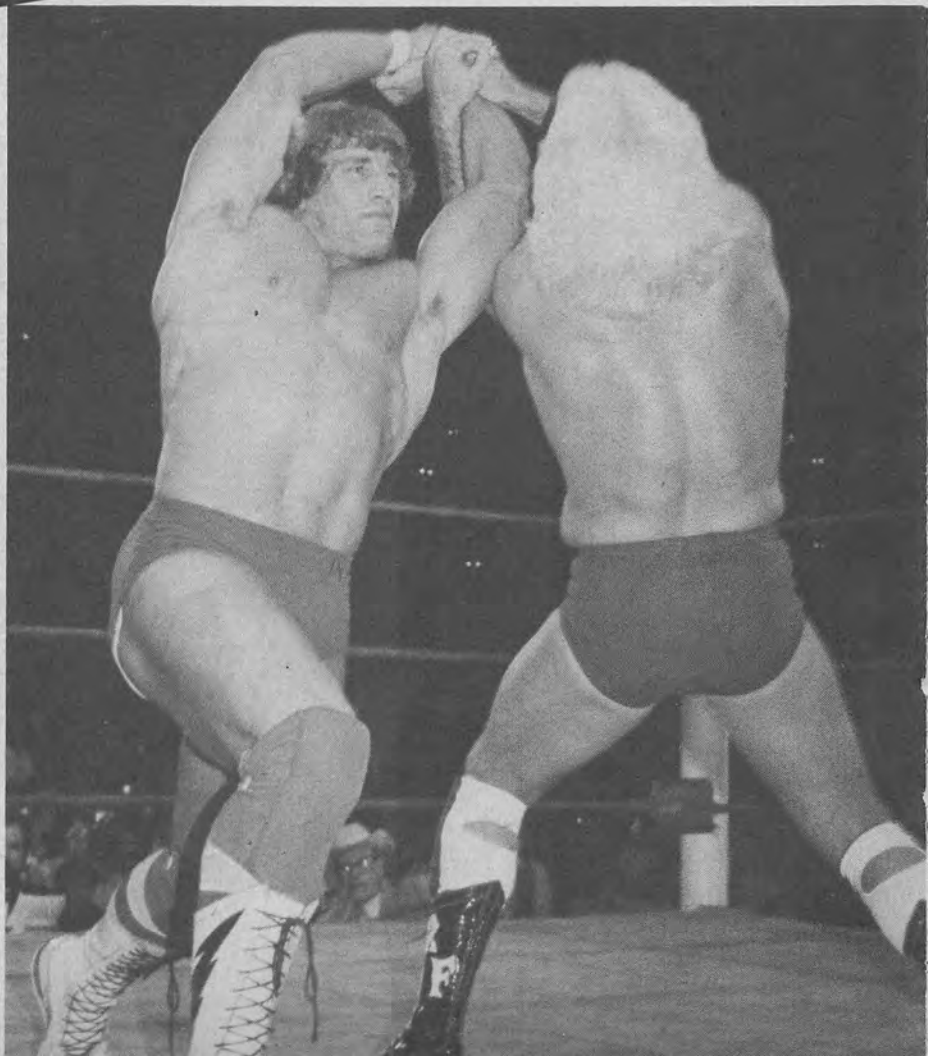
*(Continued on page 57)*

# KERRY VON ERICH:

**"The NWA  
Title Is  
Within  
My Grasp"**



*Von Erich illegally applies his iron claw along the ropes (top). Kerry presses Flair into the air (above) and engages the NWA champion in a test of strength (right).*





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***Since the end of his brief NWA World title reign, Kerry Von Erich has lived on the fringes of a dream waiting to be reborn. Over the course of several rematches with current NWA champion Ric Flair, Von Erich has demonstrated the highest caliber of excellence. The rebirth of Von Erich's dream—wearing the coveted 10 pounds of gold—may take place very, very soon***

---

KERRY VON ERICH sat in his dressing room at the Kiel Auditorium in St. Louis contemplating the loss he had suffered at the hands of Ric Flair only seconds earlier.

"It was so close," Kerry said, "so close I could almost taste it. At one point I had Flair caught in his own main hold, the figure-four leglock, and for those few minutes it was sheer agony for both of us.

"That was when I realized how closely we're matched," Kerry continued. "Flair was trying to reverse and I was giving it everything I had to stop him. For a couple of minutes neither of us had the hold on the other—it was just a remarkable struggle to see who would gain control. Those were some of the most intense moments I've ever spent in the ring."

Kerry was unusually reflective following his title match with Flair ... but then again, Kerry is in an unusual position in the wrestling world today.

He is a member of that most select fraternity: the group of ex-NWA champions.

As a former holder of the most coveted championship in all of professional wrestling, Kerry Von Erich is privileged—and limited—in many ways.

● Former NWA champions who are still actively wrestling have already proven themselves to be the cream of the professional wrestling crop. Those who are still in the prime of their wrestling careers are automatically looked upon as top prospects for regaining that title sometime in the indeterminate future. As a result, the former champi-



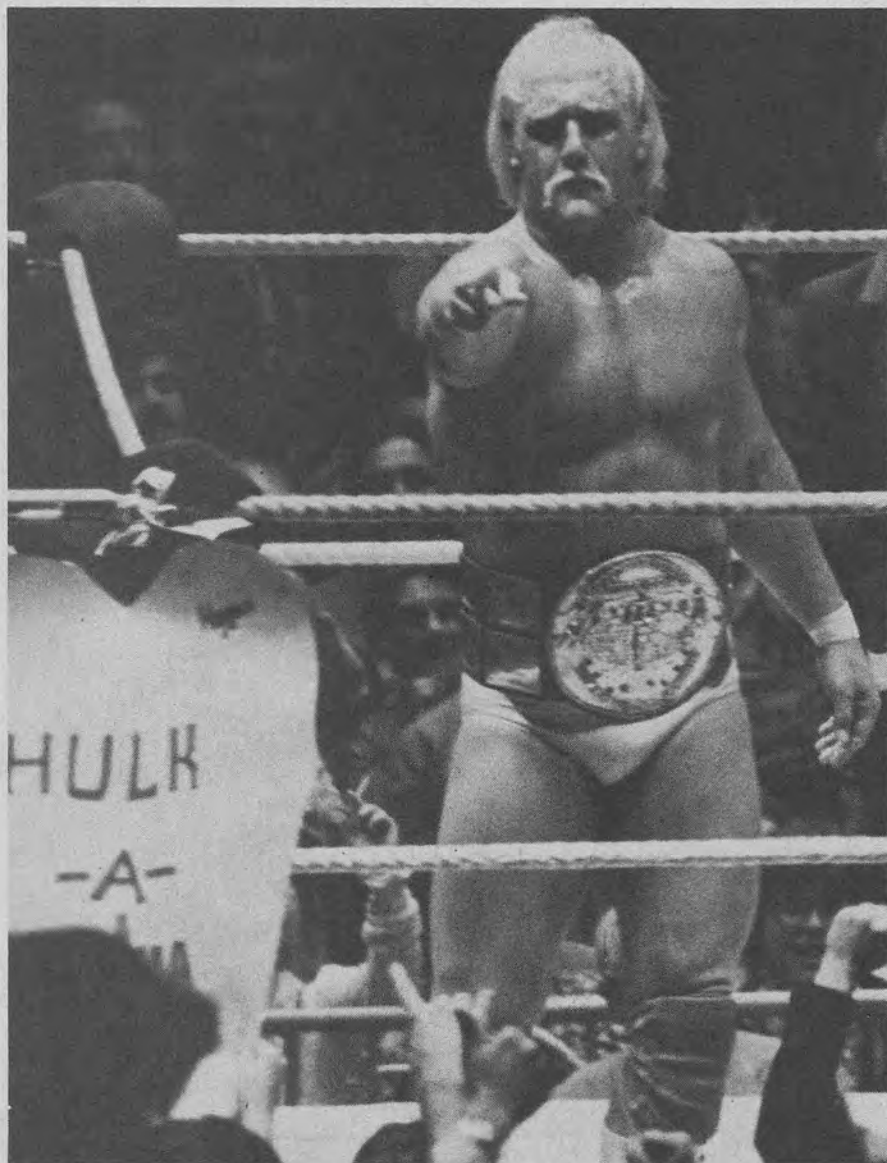
*Flair backs his challenger into a corner and goes to work on his midsection. As a former NWA titleholder, Von Erich is in an excellent position to recapture the championship. These two men are very evenly matched.*

on experiences pressure from public and press in the form of predictions as to *when* he will regain the title, and analyses as to *how* he can regain the belt. Those pressures can serve two functions: They can aid the man in understanding how to

become champion again, or they can weigh heavily on his mind and form a psychological barrier to becoming champion again.

● Former champions are among the first men chosen as opponents  
(Continued on page 60)

# The Night HULKAMANIA



ONE CAN ALMOST see the sizzling lightning bolts of pure excitement crackling from fan to fan as the anticipation builds with each passing second.

*He's on his way.*

*He's right there—back in the dressing room.*

*OH! I think I caught a glimpse of the man himself!*

*Any second now!*

*I can't wait!*

*There go the lights!*

The arena falls into darkness and the searing guitar sound of “Eye of the Tiger” begins to thunder through the building’s sound system. Fans’ cheers seem to stack layer upon layer of noise and adrenaline-fueled energy over the power chords of the song from the film *Rocky III*. Because the fans know that any second one of that film’s stars will be entering the . . .

*And there he is now!*

*The WWF heavyweight champion!*

*From Venice Beach, California!*

*A massive 305 pounds of pure muscle!*

*The incredible Hulk Hogan!*

One might have thought it impossible, but as Hogan steps into the ring, the fans’ cheers grow even louder. Hogan cups his hand to his ear as if to

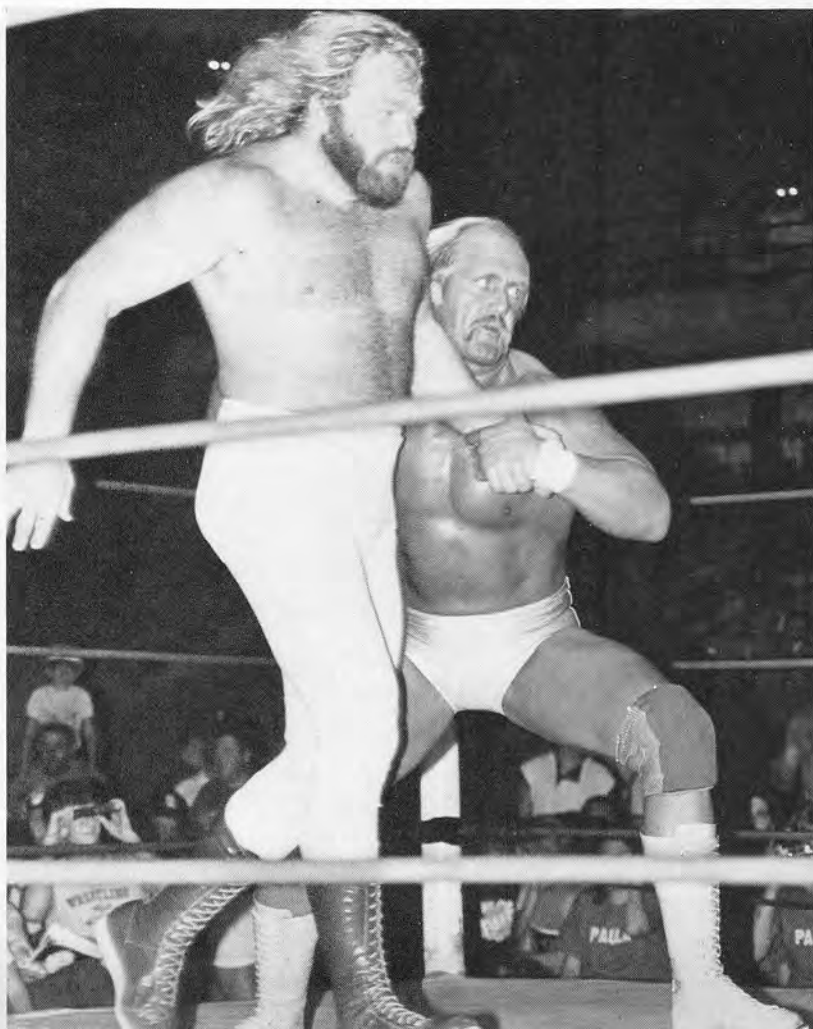
## Trampled Big John Studd



**Big John Studd calls himself "the only true giant in wrestling." Studd was even so bold as to think that WWF champion Hulk Hogan would be a pushover. But he didn't bargain on the power of Hogan's fans—Hulkamania—affecting the outcome of the match!**



*Studd applies a full-nelson (above) and throws a mean elbow (below), but Hogan would come back (right), and in the end Hulk-A-Mania would rule (opposite page).*



say, "I can't hear you," and the roaring sound rises to a deafening level.

This is "Hulkamania" in action, the love of the fans for their champion. The admiration of an individual who seems to have no peer in the world of professional wrestling.

The fans know that, within seconds, Hogan is going to be taking his opponent and ripping him apart, piece by piece, sending him back to his dressing room to contemplate why he ever bothered to enter professional wrestling in the first place!

Hogan removes the WWF belt and, before handing it to a ringside attendant, displays it to the crowd. It is their belt as much as it is his belt, for without "Hulkamania," without the power of the crowd behind him, Hogan might be just another wrestler.

Just another wrestler. The thought seems almost ludicrous when applied to Hulk Hogan. As Hogan rips off his shirt and tosses it into the throng of ringside fans reaching out to him, the WWF champion smiles. These are his

*(Continued on page 62)*



# THE ROAD WARRIORS & MR. T

Three Mean Dudes From Chicago's South Side











# TOMMY RICH:

**1985 is here. For Tommy "Wildfire" Rich, that signals not only a new year, but a new outlook on his career. There have been a lot of changes in Tommy's life: A new tag team partner, a return to the Georgia area and fans, and a renewed vigor that just might carry him all the way to another NWA World title reign**

*Bill Irwin backdrops Rich, but Tommy is determined to bring him down as well (opposite right). Tommy, bleeding badly as he corners Irwin, is willing to pay the price for regaining the NWA title (opposite far right).*

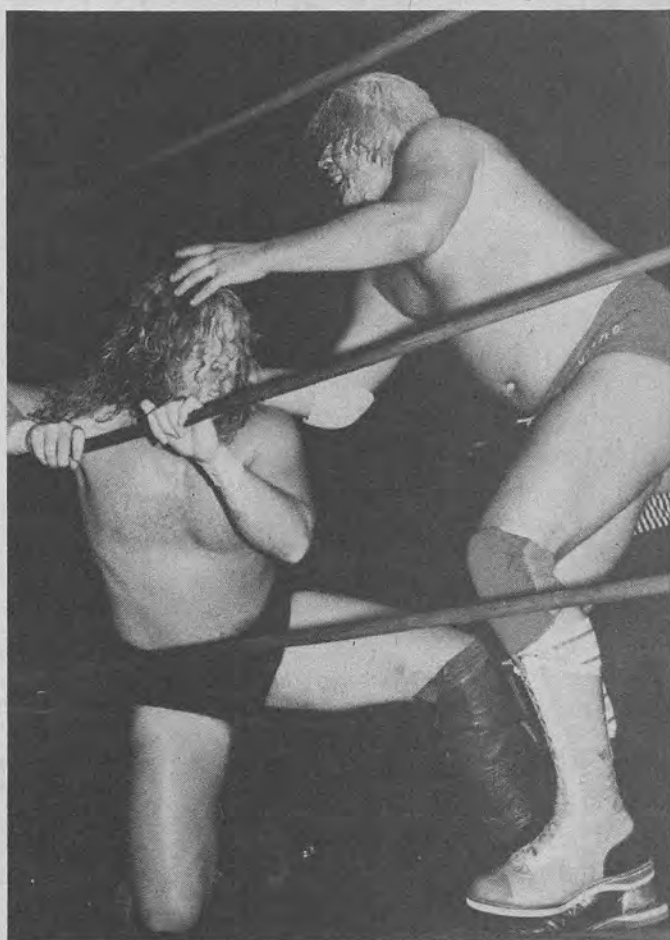
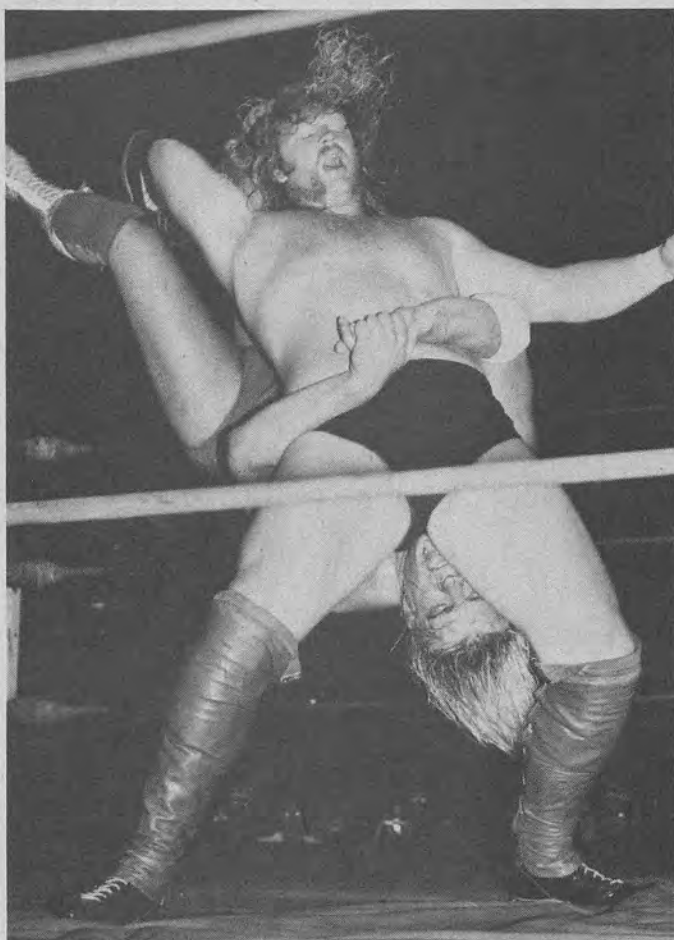
**B**Y NOW YOU'VE already heard about the new *Pro Wrestling USA* television show that airs over New York's Channel 11 on Saturday mornings. You might be asking yourself, "What's the big deal? After all, it's just another wrestling program. Why all the commotion?"

Well, it's another wrestling program, yes, but it's a very special wrestling program. It's the first major wrestling program to recognize both the NWA and AWA World titles, and to bring together top names from both areas.



# "WILDFIRE" 85!

By Craig Peters



That's important for the fans, because they get to see in action a lot of wrestlers they normally only read about in the magazines.

It's also important for professional wrestling journalists, because we get to see and speak with top talent from the NWA and AWA all in one place.

Mid-October in Spartanburg, South Carolina. It was a cool Wednesday evening outside the Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium. But inside, where they were taping the *Pro Wrestling USA* program,

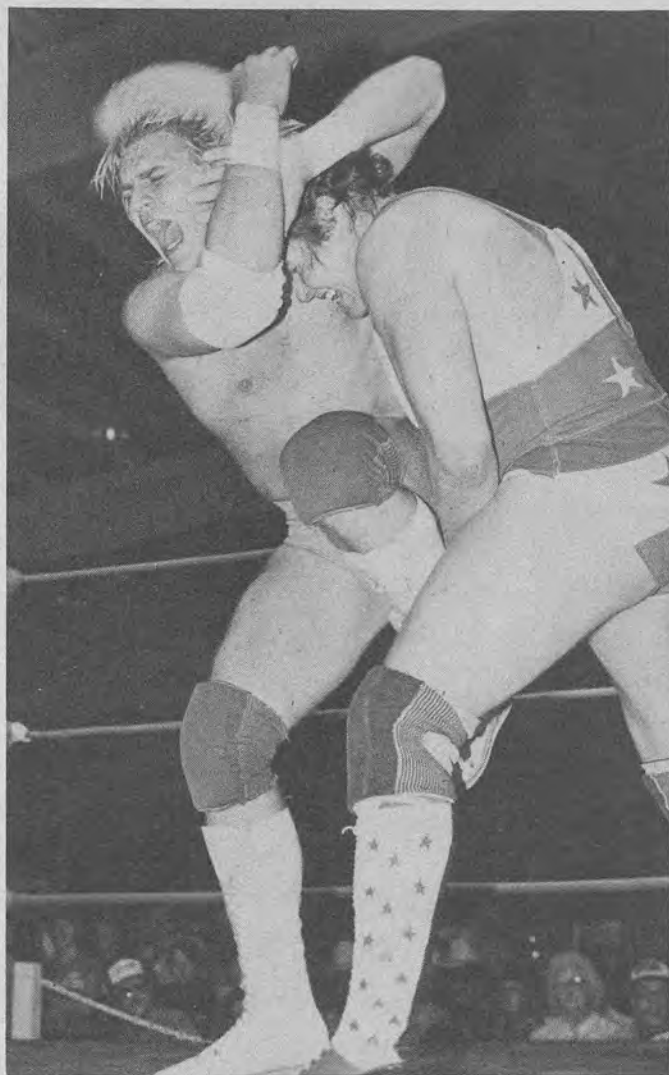
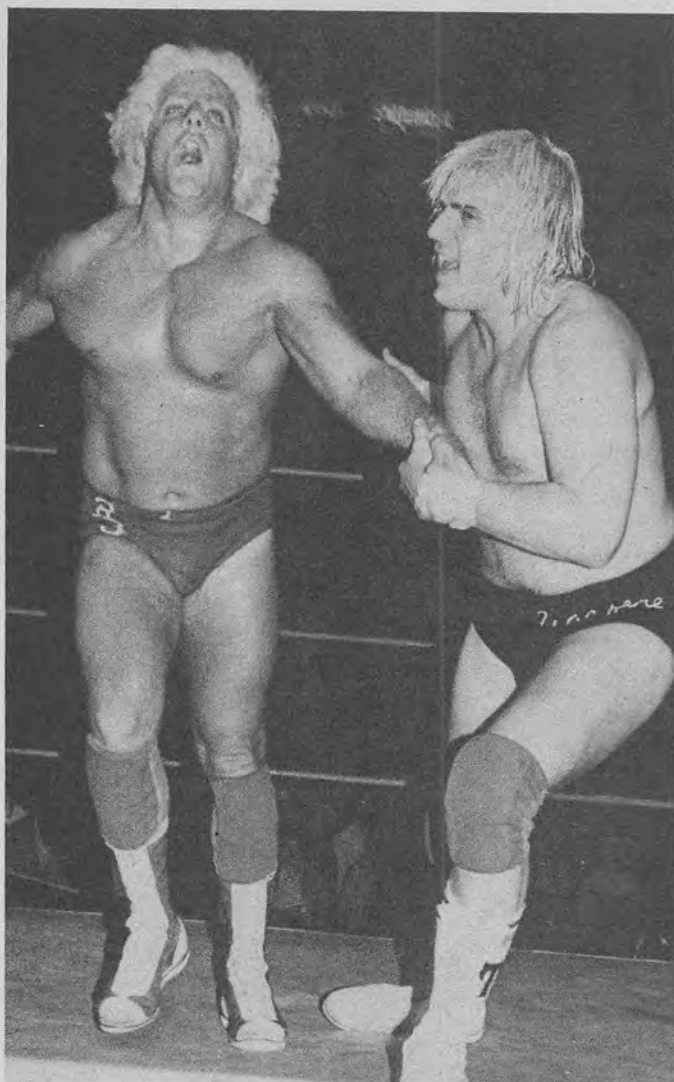
was a different story. And while the team of Ivan Koloff, Nikita Koloff, and Don Kernodle methodically obliterated their opposition in the ring, I was in the dressing room area speaking with Tommy "Wildfire" Rich.

"You know, Craig, it's great to be involved with *Pro Wrestling USA*," Tommy told me. "This is really something different in wrestling. The NWA and the AWA together. That's excitement right there. You can feel it all over the place. The fans have caught it,

that's the truth, and it's sure got a hold on me, brother!"

I have talked with Tommy many times over the past two or three years. About a year ago, for example, I spoke with him regarding his seemingly endless feud with Buzz Sawyer. At that time, he seemed weary, dejected, and ready to call it quits. The feud had taken its toll, physically and mentally.

Several months ago, I spoke with Tommy about the situation between him and former tag team partner Eddie Gilbert. Rich and Gilbert had



*Tommy Rich is gearing his training toward recapturing the NWA World title from Ric Flair (above left). Tommy resists Bob Roop's attempt to escape his headlock (above right). Wildfire sends Irwin over with a backdrop (below).*

suffered a bitter split, and it affected Tommy's wrestling and his general attitude for several months.

But that night in Spartanburg, I saw a very different Tommy Rich. I saw a Tommy Rich who has a new outlook on his career. A man with a sense of purpose. A man with a vibrancy in his speech and in his moves in the ring. A lot of that energy, I suspect, grows out of the excitement of *Pro Wrestling USA* and Tommy's new involvement with longtime friend Jerry Lawler.

"Me and Jerry are really beginning to click," Tommy said, referring to the matches lately in which "Wildfire" has teamed with Lawler. "We've teamed before in the past, but it's different now. There's a commitment to excellence that we've both made, a commitment to



excellence and success. And we're not going to stop anywhere. We're looking for a major tag team title, and we're going to get it.

"I'm looking to bring the team back to all my Georgia peaches pretty soon," Tommy continued. "I've wrestled in Georgia again after a long absence there, I've been back on WTBS Channel 17 with Gordon Solie and Ole Anderson talking to the Georgia fans about my plans for the future, and the response I've been getting has been tremendous. Cards and letters have been encouraging me to come back. Hey, brother, they love me in Georgia, and that's nice, because I love them too!"

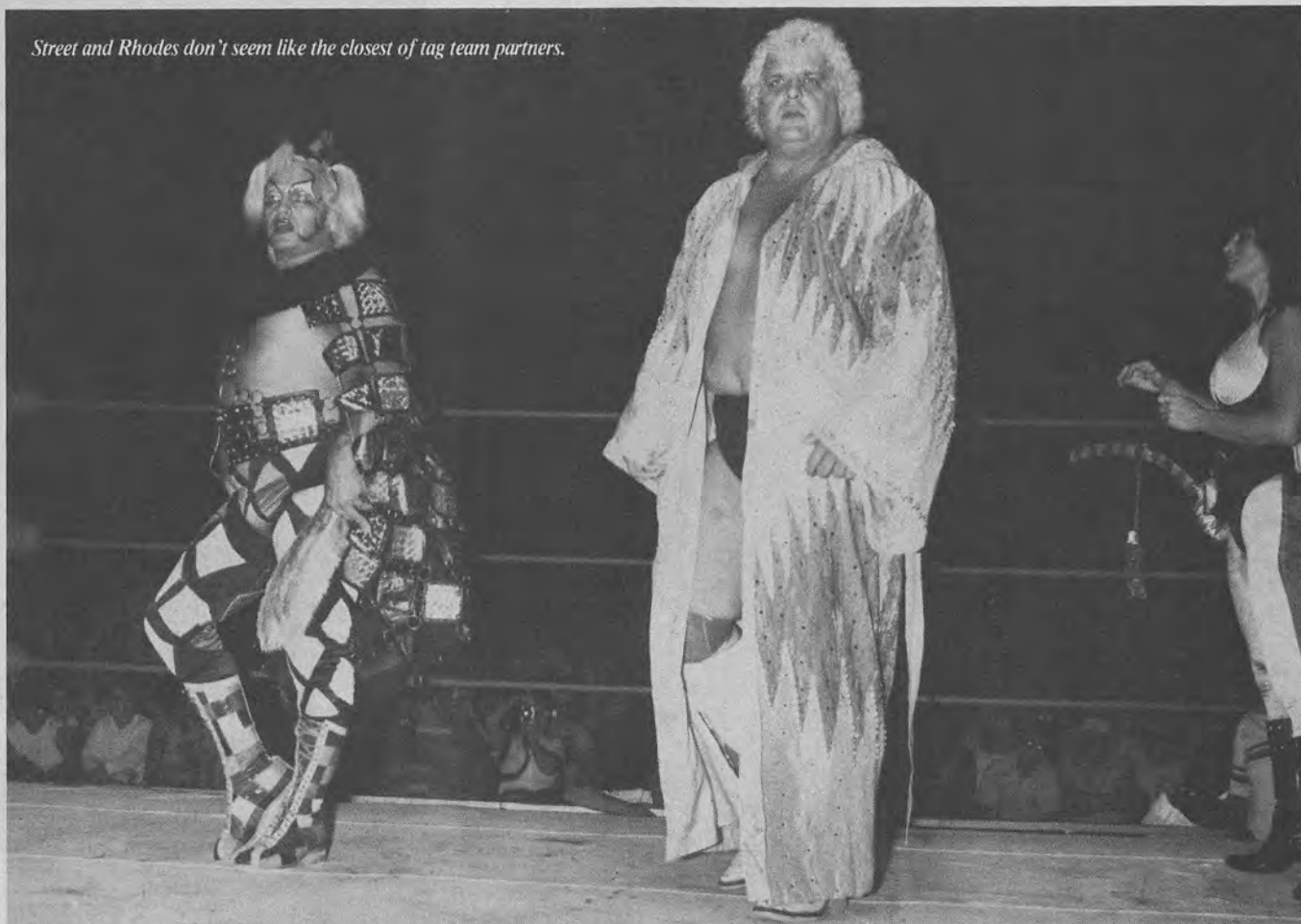
I was delighted by Tommy's attitude. For the first time in many,

*(Continued on page 63)*



# An Odd Couple At Odds:

*Street and Rhodes don't seem like the closest of tag team partners.*



## WHY DUSTY RHODES AND ADRIAN STREET WILL NEVER TEAM AGAIN

**T**HERE ARE TIMES when a man can have too much imagination. Recently, Dusty Rhodes proved that.

The best place to start is at the beginning. Dusty was engaged in an intense and bitter feud against Kevin Sullivan and Buzz Sawyer. He would do anything to humiliate them as well as defeat them. When he was scheduled to wrestle against the pair, he needed a tag team partner. We might as well let Dusty explain what happened next:

"I wanted to prove I could beat those bums senseless with anyone. I could take the man I admire least in

*Most people were shocked when they heard Dusty Rhodes had asked Adrian Street, a man Dusty despises, to be his tag team partner. That was only the beginning, for what followed has to be one of the most incredible chapters in wrestling history*

the world and still run that pair out of the ring. I wanted to choose a man whose very presence would be an insult to Sullivan and Sawyer.

"It didn't take me long to figure out who was the man to pick. There's no one I respect as little as I do Adrian Street. His prancing stupidity is enough to make me sick. I knew that if I showed up with Street, Sullivan and Sawyer would consider it a slap in the face. And there's nothing a man hates more than a slap in the face; it's like getting your manhood spit upon. That's exactly how I wanted those

bums to feel.

"I knew Street hates my guts as much as I hate his. But the offer was just crazy enough to appeal to a guy who wears makeup and never goes anywhere without an Amazon named Miss Linda. Yeah, I knew Street was getting an offer he couldn't resist."

Dusty was right on both counts. Street was happy to accept his offer, and the pairing infuriated Sullivan and

Sawyer. When they were interviewed, Dusty's foes spoke with a cold hatred that made many people think Dusty had gone too far. You don't humiliate Sullivan and Sawyer and expect them to take it lightly. Rhodes had to know that his enemies would think up new and dangerous ways to defeat him. They wouldn't be trying for victory but for inflicting permanent damage.

And so all four wrestlers traveled to



*Not long after their tag team match, Street and Rhodes were back in the ring against each other. Street twists Rhodes' arm (above). Any man, even Street, would beg for mercy in this situation (left)!*

Orlando, Florida, for the showdown. The crowd couldn't wait to see Rhodes and Street, billed naturally as "The Odd Couple." When the pair entered the ring with Miss Linda, fans cheered wildly. Dusty couldn't have been happier, allowing Miss Linda to douse him with whatever is actually in her atomizer. Dusty's delight was caused by the anger expressed by Sullivan and Sawyer as they watched these antics. Sullivan is used to being the most bizarre wrestler in any match; after all, it's hard to be weirder than a Satanist. Street and Rhodes made Sullivan look like a Wall Street broker.

When the bell rang, Sullivan and Sawyer proved they were much angrier than they were smart. Rhodes had enraged them to the point where their





Rhodes maneuvers Street to the middle of the ring (above left). Dusty's armtwist has The Exotic One in great pain (below). The American Dream threatens Street's valet, Miss Linda, but he doesn't follow through (above right).



lust for revenge made them reckless. Leaving themselves wide open time and time again, Rhodes and Street picked them apart almost at will. Even when Sawyer and Sullivan realized what was happening they couldn't change their tactics. Their team in disarray, Sullivan and Sawyer never had a chance to win. Rhodes not only conquered them, he humiliated them in the process.

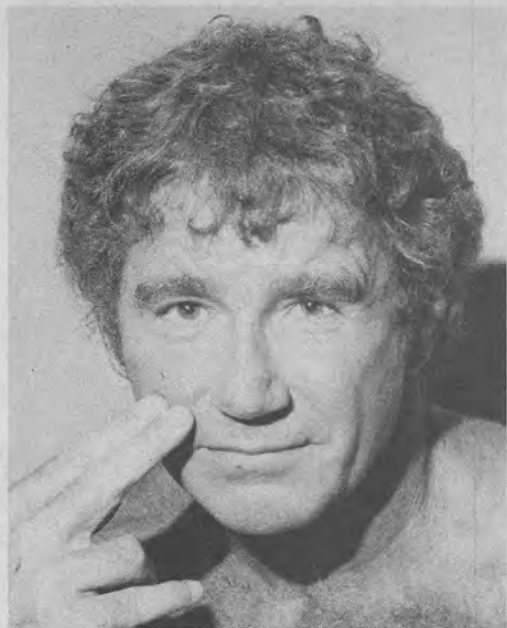
Yet, they weren't the only ones Rhodes humiliated. It didn't take long for Street to realize that Rhodes considered him an insult and not a partner. Rhodes used Street to confound his foes but never depended on him. Throughout the battle, Dusty made it clear he never considered Street to be of any real use.

That set up the next match. To regain his honor, Street challenged Rhodes to a match. The language Adrian used to issue the challenge cannot be reprinted in this magazine. Rhodes happily accepted. To batter Street after humiliating Sawyer and Sullivan is Dusty's idea of everything working out perfectly.

From the beginning of their match in Richmond, Virginia, Street proved that he is a fearsome competitor; it's a sad opponent who takes Street lightly because of his strange behavior. Street went at Rhodes with a savagery he'd never before exhibited. Adrian was out to prove that Rhodes had no right to

(Continued on page 64)

# Bob Armstrong's Message To His Son Brad:



## "DIBIASE IS MY PROBLEM."

"IT'S REALLY A hard thing to think about. I have mixed emotions about the whole thing. I don't want to *kill* DiBiase. Not really. But look—this is family we're talking about, this is my father. What would you do? How would you feel?"

Brad Armstrong's voice was shaky when I questioned him back in May about Ted DiBiase's attack on his father. It's never been found out *exactly* what happened and how, but it's enough to say that Bob Armstrong sustained a broken cheekbone, hairline fractures in several bones in the face, and had to undergo extensive plastic surgery and several additional operations to repair the broken bones.

DiBiase has made no attempt to hide his pride in what he did to Armstrong, and he has openly expressed his willingness to do the same thing to Bob's son Brad. And with the National heavyweight title currently belonging to Brad, DiBiase's motivation becomes that much stronger.

I recently interviewed Bob with the intention of learning something

about his hospital stay and the nature and extent of his injuries. My interview turned into something quite unexpected as I found out that Bob's attitude toward his son is not precisely what I had anticipated it would be.

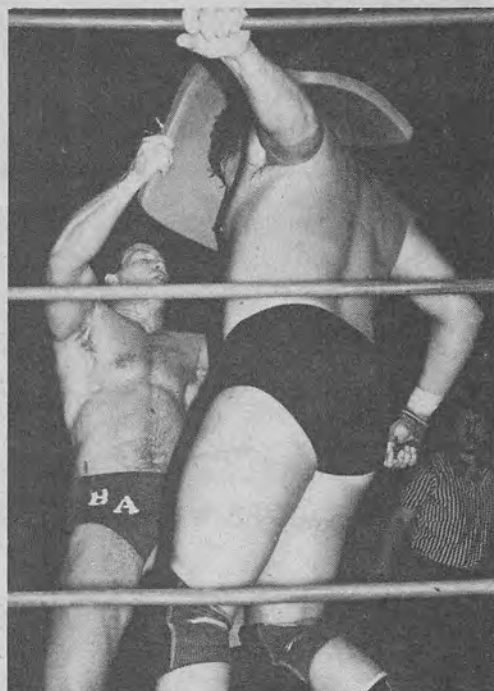
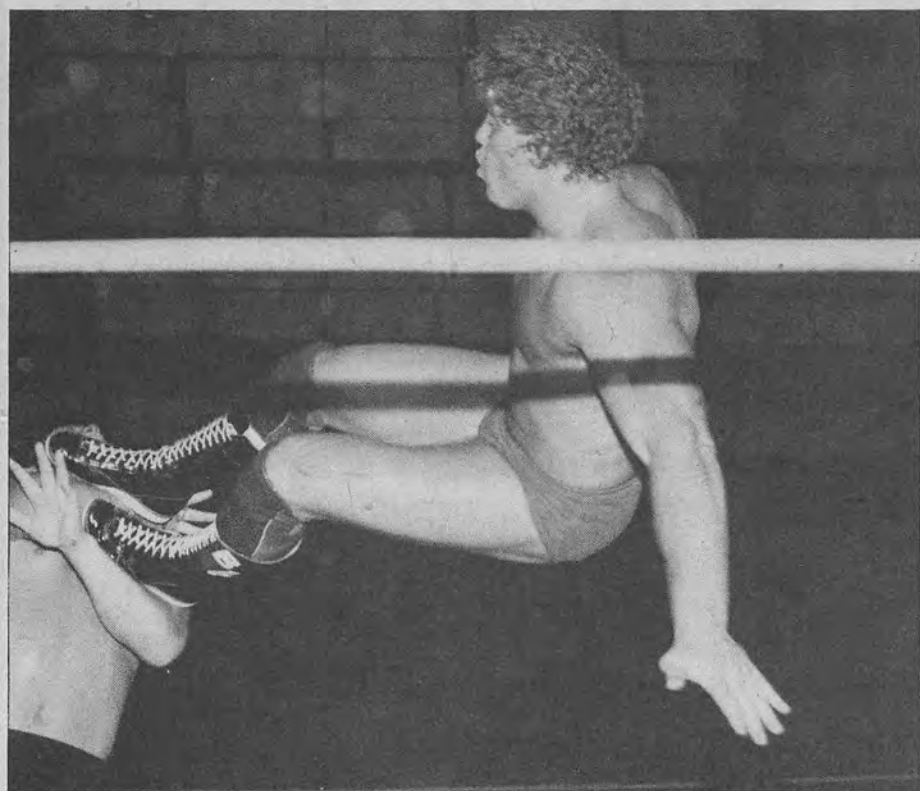
"Let me tell you something,  
(Continued on page 64)

*It is common knowledge that DiBiase's glove is loaded with a foreign object. DiBiase fires that glove into the face of Brad Armstrong (below).*

*Bob Armstrong, on the mend after having his face mutilated by DiBiase (top), doesn't want to see his son risk his career for a battle that is not his own.*





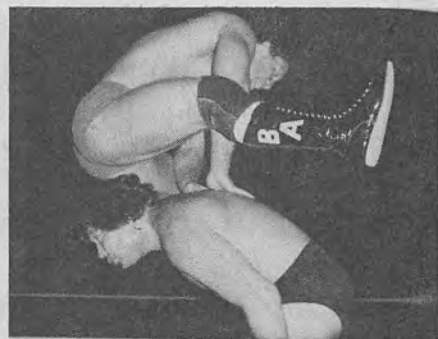
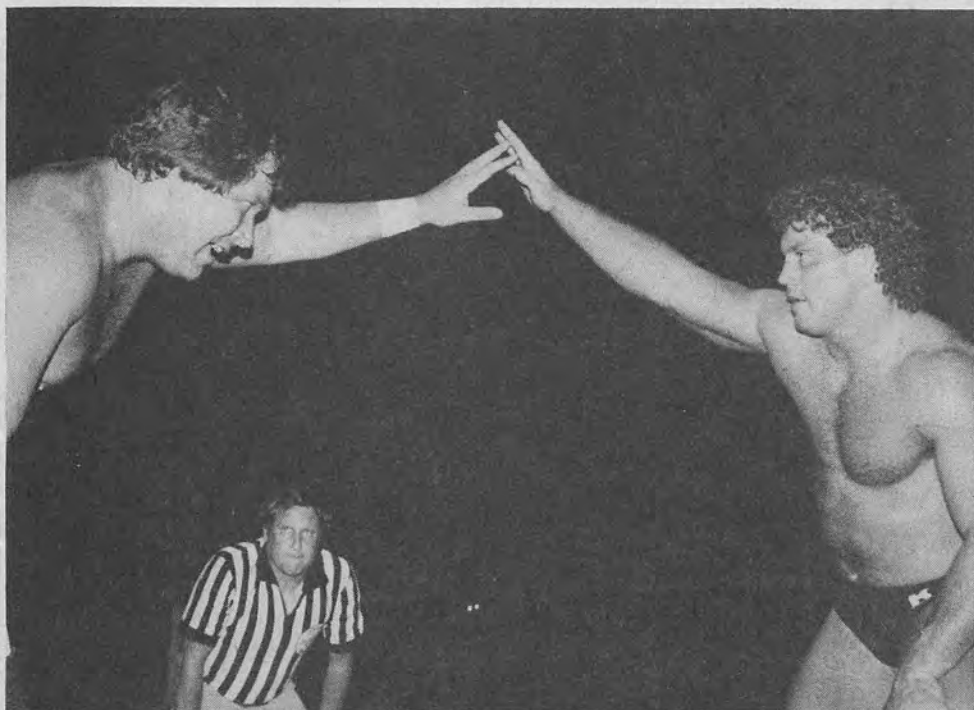


Brad staggers DiBiase with a well-placed dropkick (left). The fans are unaccustomed to seeing Brad swing a chair at an opponent (above).

# NOT YOURS!"

By Bill Apter

*When Ted DiBiase savagely mutilated the face of Bob Armstrong, Bob's son Brad immediately ran to his father's defense. After a lengthy hospital stay and several operations, Bob Armstrong is back in action—and he's telling his son to step aside in the battle against DiBiase!*



DiBiase and Armstrong cautiously lock up for a test of strength (left). Brad shows his athletic ability as he leaps over a charging DiBiase (above).

# BLOND BOMBERS

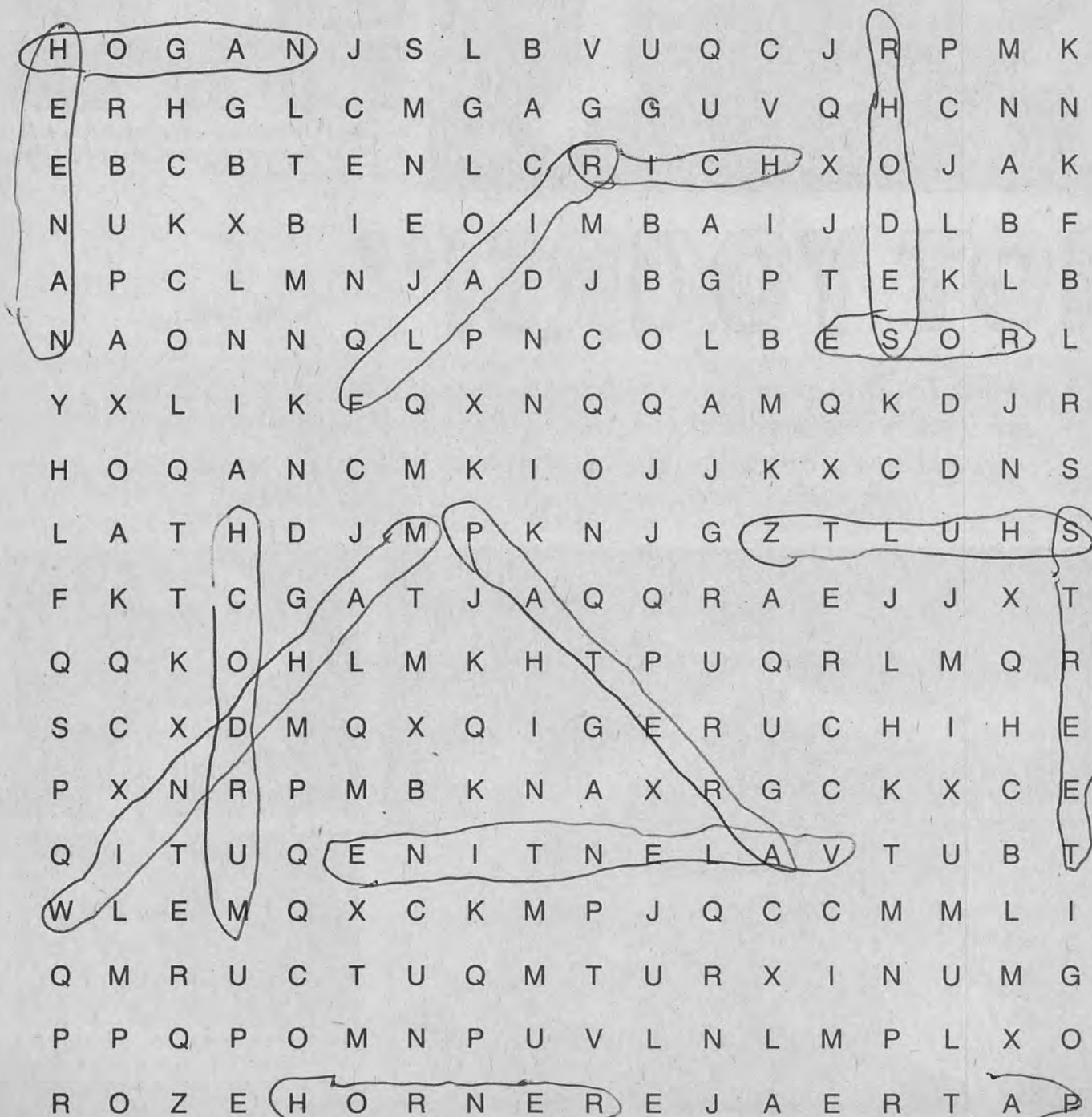
# PUZZLE

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● RHODES ● RICH ● ROSE ● SHULTZ ● STREET ● VALENTINE ● WINDHAM



(Answers on page 57)



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**DAVID SAMMARTINO**

(Continued from page 8)

ing with a human body, the way the body is structured, to push a man overhead like that. It takes an enormous amount of strength, and you don't see a whole lot of people known for their strength who will press a man like that. There's a few, but David is one of the very few who will do that.

Now as far as finishing holds go, there's one that he does, which I dare to say he does better than anyone I've ever seen, and I've seen quite a few use it. It is what we call the powerslam.

The reason why I say David does it better than anybody, first of all, is that he usually catches an opponent as he comes off the ropes, scoops him up to what looks like a body-slam, and then he flies through the air with the other man. And not only that, as he brings him down with all of his weight and knocks the wind out of him, he immediately scissors

the right leg of his opponent and hooks the left leg with his other arm, tying his man into a small package. If he hasn't knocked all the wind out of his opponent from this devastating powerslam, he hooks him in a fashion that it would make it impossible for the opponent to escape. And nobody else does that.

Right now I am very, very pleased with everything that David is doing. The only thing that I would caution him on right now is that he seems a little too anxious to wrestle everybody.

One must be patient. Because with patience, you'll get the opponents you want and the experience you need. With time and with each opponent, David will improve.

And as far as his Madison Square Garden debut goes—well, I'm about as proud as any father can be of his son. David has made me very, very proud of him. □

**BILLY HAYNES**

(Continued from page 13)

match I'd take care of that old man in no time.

"If Graham wants a fight, though, he's going to get a fight. Oh boy, is he going to get a fight!"

\*\*\*

"Calm down, brother, you're gonna bust a blood vessel somewhere. Cool out, Billy. Hey—take it easy."

Dusty Rhodes tried to calm Billy Haynes down prior to one of Billy's matches against the new Florida heavyweight champion Superstar Billy Graham. He wasn't being too

successful.

"It burns me, Dusty, it just gets under my skin and burrows down deep, you hear what I'm saying?"

"I hear you, partner, but you're hurting yourself with this anger, you hear me? You gotta keep self-control. You gotta keep it together, or you're never gonna get that belt back where we both know it belongs."

"Look, Dust, I appreciate you filling in for me these last few matches and all, but now I've got

(Continued on page 50)



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### BILLY HAYNES

(Continued from page 48)

to do what I've got to do. I've been giving this a lot of thought while I've been sitting on the sidelines, and I know, deep down in my heart, that I've got to eliminate Graham. That's it. Elimination. No setbacks for him, no disappointments, no detours. Complete elimination.

"I want Graham out of this sport," Billy continued. "He gives a bad name to the Florida title and to all of wrestling. He isn't a champion, he's a goon. I can beat him in any fair match I get, I can beat his full nelson, and I can run him out of wrestling. And I will. The first step will be regaining the Florida title, then I'll take it from there."

"Just watch yourself, partner, just be careful," Dusty said. "He's tricky, and he's got Humperdink on his side, and now it looks like Kevin Sullivan is behind him too. Take it from me, brother, that's a tough crew to deal with. Just be careful."

"I will, Dust. But Graham better be careful too." ☐

### NATURE GIRL

(Continued from page 18)

for the evening, Crystal Monroe, is a soft-spoken young woman whose bright eyes sparkle as she speaks.

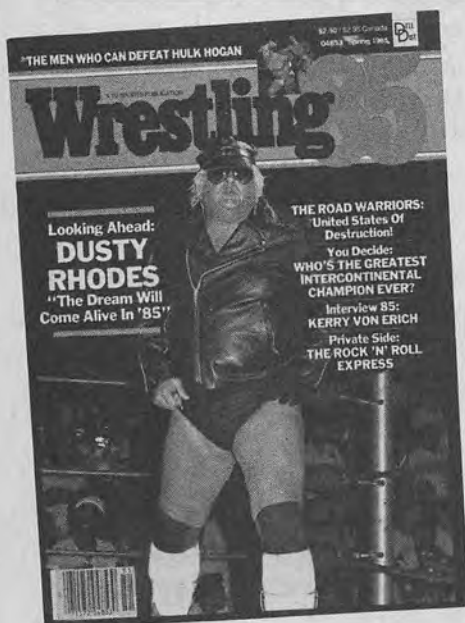
"Nature Girl is one of the toughest opponents I've ever wrestled," Crystal told *Victory Sports Wrestling* after the match was over, "but I think I did well against her. She fights dirty. She had me in the ropes a lot, and she was choking me all over the place. It's hard to battle someone so dirty, because I won't lower myself to those kind of tactics. I'll rely on a spinning toe hold before I use a chokehold, but she'll choke you every chance she gets. And

(Continued on page 52)



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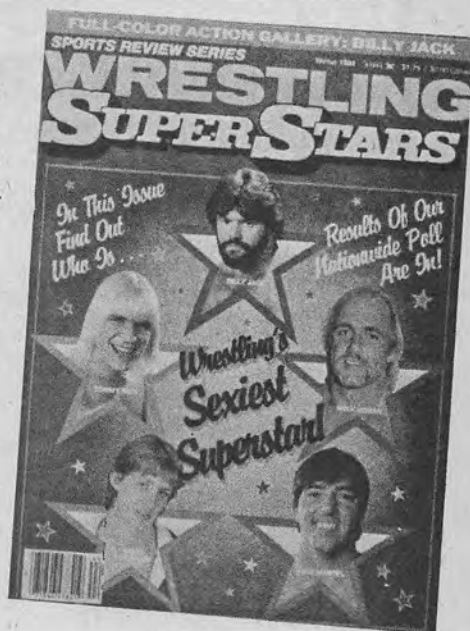
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## NATURE GIRL

(Continued from page 50)

if she pins me using dirty tactics, I don't consider that a defeat. I think *she's* the one who really loses in the long run."

And what does Crystal Monroe think about the World Women's title?

"Well, that's the one, isn't it?" she said. "I mean, we're all looking to that title someday. Wendi really deserves a lot of credit, because she defeated someone who had been champion for 27 years. That's amazing.

"I know for sure that someday I'll be wrestling for that title," Crystal said. "I'd love to wrestle Wendi for the belt. I think we both have very similar styles, and I'd like to test myself against her style and experience. Maybe someday I'll get that chance."

Crystal Monroe and Nature Girl are *both* looking for that chance to someday wrestle for the World Women's title. They are both dreaming of securing that one championship match that could change their lives. They have

both set their sights on Wendi Richter as an eventual target and opponent.

Meanwhile, they both have a long journey to complete: the journey up the tall ladder of contention in the world of women's wrestling. And the steps of that journey are taking place in rings like the one in Lindenhurst High School. Only a few thousand fans may be on hand to witness the match, but to the two women involved there's more at stake than the cheers or boos of the people in the high school gym. There's a future at stake—perhaps the future of the World Women's title itself.

Take a quick glance over your shoulder, Wendi Richter: There are a lot of women like Nature Girl and Crystal Monroe out there—hungry women, capable of winning the title from you if only they had the chance. And if they have anything to say about it, your title reign won't last nearly as long as Moolah's! □

## RICK STEAMBOAT

(Continued from page 21)

"It got to the point," one claims, "where Rick couldn't stand the pressure. He was Rookie of the Year in 1977, a star when most of his contemporaries were still prelim wrestlers, and always being pegged as a future champion. Then when he didn't deliver, not the way he thought people wanted him to deliver, he got scared. He began to feel like a failure and started looking for other ways to satisfy himself. When I first knew Rick, all he cared about was wrestling. Now, I

still think he cares most about wrestling, but he won't admit it to himself."

Another friend thinks, "Rick doesn't believe in himself anymore, not the way he should. When Ric Flair became NWA champion, it took something out of Rick. He always expected he would be the young champion, not Flair. Whether he wants to face it or not, he's running away from what he feels is his failure."

Still another colleague adds,  
(Continued on page 54)



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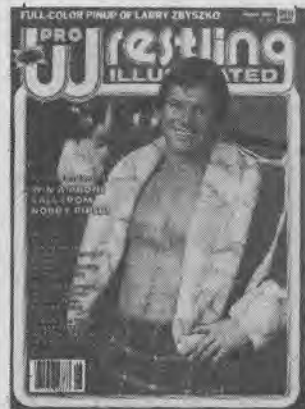
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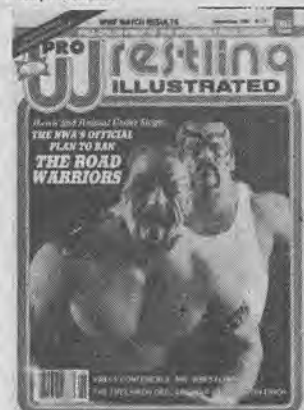
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**February 1984/COLOR POSTER:** Jim Garvin & Sunshine. Cover story: Greg Valentine. **PLUS:** Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

**April 1984/COLOR POSTER:** Rocky Johnson. Cover story: Ric Flair. **PLUS:** Hogan, Andre, Rich, Bundy.

**May 1984/COLOR POSTER:** Hacksaw Butch Reed. Cover story: Hulk Hogan. **PLUS:** Road Warriors, Fabulous Ones, Flair, Rotundo.



**SEPTEMBER 1984**

**June 1984/COLOR POSTER:** Dick Slater. Cover story: Ted DiBiase. **PLUS:** Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, One Man Gang, Hogan.

**July 1984/COLOR POSTER:** Paul Ellering. Cover story: Jimmy Valiant. **PLUS:** JYD, Fabulous Ones, Gagne, Windham.

**August 1984/COLOR POSTER:** Stan Hansen. Cover story: Jerry Lawler. **PLUS:** Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

**September 1984/COLOR POSTER:** Hulk Hogan. Cover story: The Road Warriors. **SPECIAL FIFTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE—A Look Back At Wrestling In The PWI Years.**

**October 1984/COLOR POSTER:** Billy Jack. Cover story: Kerry Von Erich. **PLUS:** Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

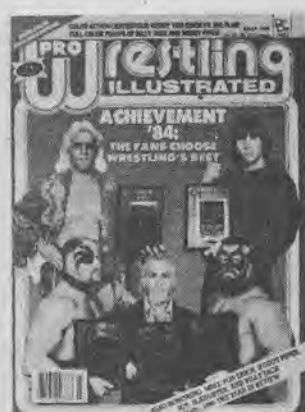
**November 1984/COLOR POSTER:** Rick Martel. Cover story: Sgt. Slaughter. **PLUS:** Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

**December 1984/COLOR POSTER:** Kerry Von Erich. Cover story: Barry Windham. **PLUS:** Rich, Martel, McDaniel, WWF-NWA TV war.

**January 1985/COLOR POSTER:** Tito Santana. Cover story: Road Warriors. **PLUS:** Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

**February 1985/COLOR POSTER:** Magnum T.A. Cover story: Rick Martel. **PLUS:** Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

**March 1985/SPECIAL YEAR-END AWARDS ISSUE! FOUR PAGE COLOR SECTION:** Billy Jack, Roddy Piper, Ric Flair vs. Kerry Von Erich; **PLUS:** 1984—The Year In Review.



**MARCH 1985**

**April 1985/COLOR POSTER:** Ronnie Garvin. Cover story: Jimmy Snuka. **PLUS:** Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

**May 1985/COLOR POSTER:** Road Warriors. **SPECIAL TAG TEAM ISSUE!** Cover story: Fabulous Ones & Rock 'n' Roll Express. **PLUS:** Windham & Rotundo, Von Erich & Billy Haynes, PWI Rates Top 15 teams.

**June 1985/COLOR POSTER:** Barry Windham. Cover story: Dusty Rhodes. **PLUS:** Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, Magnum T.A.

**July 1985/COLOR POSTER:** Sgt. Slaughter. Cover story: Hogan vs. Piper. **PLUS:** Road Warriors, One Man Gang, Magnum T.A., Martel.

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## RICK STEAMBOAT

(Continued from page 52)

"We aren't judging him. None of us had his early success and the high expectations. When he came up, Rick was in a class by himself. What he went through none of us could imagine. If things came too slow, if he felt that he wasn't realizing his promise, that's understandable. If he wants to bury his ambition in that gym of his, I guess that's his business. He's wrong, but we can't blame him."

Perhaps no one will ever know the complex truth behind Rick Steamboat's semi-retirement. But there is one man who thinks he does. And he's not afraid to make himself known. His name is Ric Flair, and he's the NWA World champion.

"You don't have to tell me who your anonymous sources are,"

Flair angrily told *Victory Sports Wrestling*. "I think I know who they are. I won't reveal them, but I'll tell you what I think of them: I think they're very jealous men. Men who are pretty good wrestlers—though not championship material—and can do nothing else in this world.

"What they see in Steamboat is a man who can possibly win a the World title, but whose life doesn't revolve around one goal.

"No," Flair continued, "there is no hidden reason why Rick Steamboat owns a gym and wrestles part-time. That's just the way he chooses to lead his life. Hey, I've been in the ring with him many times, and if he doesn't want to devote himself to a World title match at this point in his life, I'm glad." □

## JAKE ROBERTS

(Continued from page 25)

the World Class area, the Von Erichs reign supreme, both in wrestling skills and in the hearts of the fans.

"You believe that crap, too?" Roberts said laughing. "What a joke! First of all, everyone talks about Kerry Von Erich. Kerry this and Kerry that. You can't pick up a damn wrestling magazine without seeing his ugly face on the cover. Great wrestler, right? Lost the World title damn near before he won it! Kevin is just a product of hype, and Mike won the World Class American title from Gino Hernandez on nothing but a fluke.

"Great trio of kids, right?" Roberts laughed. "And these are the three who are supposed to rule Texas? Don't make me laugh. I'll have little Mikey's title before he figures out how to strap the belt around his skinny little waist. And their friend

Chris Adams? Pathetic! It makes me laugh, because they call it the 'World Class' area.

"Look, before 1984 is out, I'll teach the Von Erichs the meaning of world class," Roberts said. "World class. Adjective. Descriptive term meaning that an individual is capable of standing with the very, very best in the entire world. World class wrestler. Jake Roberts. And *that*, my friend, is the meaning of world class."

\*\*\*

**J**AKE ROBERTS REBOUNDS off the ropes and slides feet-first through the legs of his opponent. He maneuvers his arms and trips his man up, sending him sprawling face-first to the canvas.

Roberts scrambles around and catches his opponent in a variation of the hammerlock. As his foe cries



out in agony, Roberts grins out to the crowd, sweat dripping profusely from his hair and face.

"What do you think now?" Roberts screams, "What do you think of this little weasel. A great wrestler, right? Look at your great wrestler now!"

Roberts scrambles to his feet, dragging his opponent with him. Setting up his foe as if he might send him into the air with a screaming suplex, Roberts instead sends his opponent's head crashing into the mat in a maneuver Roberts calls the DDT.

**WHAM!** The thundering sound of a man's head crashing into a wrestling mat shocks the fans in the packed arena. Roberts turns his limp and lifeless opponent on his back and scores an easy pinfall. Almost too easy.

"The Snake" slithers out of the ring under the bottom rope and turns to the crowd.

"This is it, people, this is the future of wrestling in the World Class area," he says. "Look at it. Realize it. And appreciate it, because what you see is what you get. Jake 'The Snake'—the closest thing to world class that you'll ever see in your pitiful little lives!"

## BRUISER BRODY

(Continued from page 28)

Perhaps he need look no further than Puerto Rico.

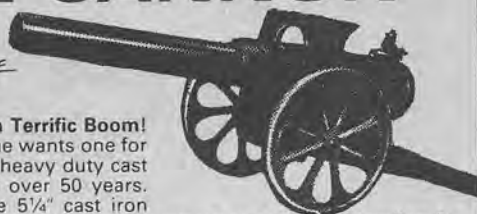
"The team of Stan Hansen and Bruiser Brody has already established supremacy in Puerto Rico," admitted Colon, "and I think that they would be one of the most formidable teams ever to hit the AWA. I think that if it happened, there would wind up being a major feud between Hansen and Brody and The Road Warriors, who are now making quite a reputation for themselves throughout the AWA.

"But the problem right now is  
(Continued on page 56)

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## BRUISER BRODY

(Continued from page 55)



that Hansen has made some commitments in the Mid-Atlantic area, while Brody is contracted to Al-Kaissie in the AWA," Colon said. "For Al-Kaissie to get Hansen to the AWA to team with Brody would take a great amount of money. He would have to buy out all of Hansen's Mid-Atlantic contracts.

"Of course," Colon continued, "Al-Kaissie's been known to spread a lot of money around in the past, so there's no reason to think he wouldn't do the same thing now."

Indeed, Hansen fits the mold of the kind of wrestler that Al-Kaissie favors.

Along with Brody, Al-Kaissie now has Abdullah the Butcher in his stable, a man whose wrestling style is that of a destructive juggernaut. Should Al-Kaissie bring Hansen to the AWA and team him with Brody, he would be unleashing a destructive force upon the area the likes of which AWA fans have only heard rumors about. The team of Brody and Hansen is experienced, powerful, deadly ...

... and a dangerous threat to the AWA just waiting to occur. The next move is Al-Kaissie's. □



## PUZZLE ANSWERS

(Continued from page 46)

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## FREEBIRDS

(Continued from page 31)

That is, after all, an undeniably glamorous world, and I'm sure Michael Hayes would want to be a part of that world. But I question whether he's really given a lot of thought to what might happen if he's successful."

Two men who undoubtedly have given a lot of thought to the subject are Hayes' Freebirds partners, Terry Gordy and Buddy "Jack" Roberts. But if they have considered the possibility of the team breaking up, they're certainly not talking about those thoughts very much.

"Hey look, brother, it's not like Michael is locking us out of the deal here, you know what I'm saying?" Terry Gordy said. "Both me and Jack were in the 'Badstreet' video, we both

played on the song, and we both have a hell of a lot of enthusiasm for 'Badstreet.' But every rock band needs a front man. The Stones have Mick Jagger, Van Halen has David Lee Roth, and we have Michael Hayes! Hey—we're just as much a part of all this as Hayes is!"

Buddy Roberts was equally enthusiastic.

"You have to understand that there is a natural progression to Freebird Fantasia that is only now beginning to take root the way it should," Roberts said philosophically. "Freebird Fantasia is more than a style of wrestling, it's a way of life, and that way of life is perfectly suited to the rock 'n' roll

(Continued on page 58)

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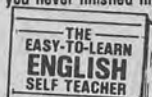
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## FREEBIRDS

(Continued from page 57)



world, just as it is perfectly suited to the professional wrestling world.

"What's happening with 'Badstreet,' Roberts continued, "is that the philosophy of Freebird Fanta-sia is spreading. It's natural. It makes sense. And there's nothing that anyone in this world can do to stop the progression."

But I question whether Gordy and Roberts aren't being blind to a situation that should be all-too-obvious to them.

As of press time, The Fabulous Freebirds have begun wrestling in the WWF area. I can only assume that there are two reasons for this:

Reason number one: Hayes, Gordy, and Roberts are tired of wrestling in Texas. "We've already beaten the Von Erichs time and time again," Hayes told me, "and all we get are raw deals from the World Class commissioners and officials who continue to hold up the six-man title. Who needs that nonsense?"

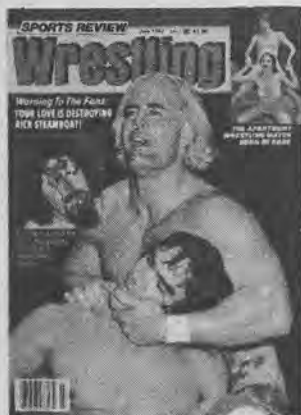
Reason number two: Wrestling in the WWF means that the Freebirds' base of operations will be switched from Texas to New York, and anyone who wants to get anywhere in the rock world has got to develop connections with the promotional machines of the major record companies, virtually all of

(Continued on page 60)



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**October 1979/Cover stories:** Rhodes, McDaniel-Spoiler. PLUS: Steamboat, Slater, Hernandez.

**January 1980/Cover stories:** Albano-Andre, Flair-Jones. PLUS: Race, Valiant.

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**July 1980/Cover story:** Bruno-Graham. PLUS: Samoans, Star Wars 1980.

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**March 1981/Cover story:** SPECIAL EDITION—Results of 1980 Fan Poll

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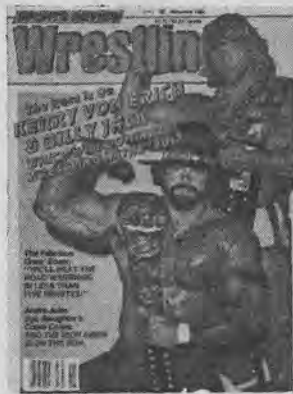
**November 1982/Cover story:** Piper. PLUS: Abdullah, Saito, Von Erich.

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**February 1983/Cover stories:** Flair-Race, Morales-Rose. PLUS: Patera, Bravo, Spoiler.

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**April 1983/Cover stories:** Backlund-Graham, Briscos. PLUS: Rhodes, Hogan.

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**April 1985/Cover stories:** Von Erich-Blackwell, Billy Haynes-Jesse Barr. PLUS: Hart, Irwins, 1985 in Pictures.

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## FREEBIRDS

(Continued from page 58)

which are based in New York City.

Indeed, when The Freebirds first appeared in the WWF, they were accompanied to the ring by their new manager, Dave Wolff. Wolff manages rock superstar Cyndi Lauper, but he has never managed in professional wrestling. Lauper, as you recall, was involved in a feud with Capt. Lou Albano that eventually led to a match between Wendi Richter and Fabulous Moolah—a match in which Richter (managed by Lauper) defeated Moolah (managed by Albano) for the World Women's title, a title that Moolah held for nearly 28 years.

Now that The Freebirds are hooked up with Dave Wolff, the future looks bright for their rock 'n' roll career. But again the question arises: How will this affect The Fabulous Freebirds as a wrestling tag team?

My personal opinion? I believe that trying to become a rock star will necessarily take away from Hayes' wrestling abilities. He has always been the acknowledged leader of The Freebirds, and if he's on the stage rocking and rolling, he can hardly devote as much attention to the team as he did in the past.

It makes common sense to me that any man trying to hold down two jobs is going to necessarily be devoting only half of his capabilities to each job. So while Hayes and The Freebirds have been excellent wrestlers in the past, they may only be devoting half their energy to wrestling in the future. If their music career flourishes, their wrestling career must suffer.

For the record, Hayes, Gordy, and Roberts are saying that a marriage between rock 'n' roll and wrestling can be made, and that even after the honeymoon is over it can still be successful. They feel that they can maintain two careers successfully.

Maybe by the time the next issue of this magazine goes on sale, we'll know which one of us is right. □



## KERRY VON ERICH

(Continued from page 33)

for the current champion. While this is a privilege to the former champion, it can also serve as a limitation to that former champion. In the case of Kerry Von Erich, for example, he has had to reduce his defenses of the World Class six-man championship, which he holds with brothers Kevin and Mike. Obviously, he cannot turn down rematches with Flair when they are offered.

Since losing the NWA World title to Ric Flair on May 24 in Japan, Kerry Von Erich has been the recipient of many title rematches. And if it is true that any man can beat any other man on any given night, it is also true that Kerry Von Erich has been refining his style against Ric Flair—and the only thing keeping the NWA belt around Flair's waist is the champion's extensive experience in title defenses ... and maybe just a little bit of luck.

Speaking with Kerry Von Erich after his match with Flair in St. Louis, one gets the impression that the champion's luck is about to run out.

"Sometimes I ask myself what I have to do to beat this guy," Von Erich said. "Let me tell you something: Flair is an *intense* wrestler. I respect him greatly. And when I wrestle him in one more match, I learn one more tiny scrap of strategy to use against him—like with the figure-four incident I mentioned earlier. I used his own weapon against him, and the element of surprise worked in my favor.

"Something else about Flair is the fact that he has tremendous stamina," Von Erich continued. "I caught him in the abdominal stretch tonight, and I pulled like mad on the

hold until I couldn't pull any more. I don't think Flair can match me for raw strength, but Flair was fighting me every inch of the way, and he expended so much energy trying to prevent me from maintaining the hold on him that in turn it cost *me* that much more energy trying to counter his defense.

"Probably the most frustrating thing about wrestling Flair is that I tend to lose my temper pretty easily," Von Erich said. "I'll reach the point in the match where I feel I should already have scored a pinfall or a submission, and Flair just keeps coming on strong. It's frustrating, and I wind up risking disqualification by attacking Flair out of the ring, or refusing to break a hold in the ropes, or, like tonight, I got the claw on Flair in the corner of the ring and I wouldn't let go. The referee would have had every right to disqualify me on the spot. I was lucky he didn't.

"But I know that as a former NWA champion, I'm right up there in the consideration for opponents for title shots," Von Erich said, "and that if I don't succeed tonight, there's another title shot right around the corner. I can feel victory right around the corner. I can feel that the NWA title is within my grasp. And sooner or later, Flair will fall. It's inevitable.

"I've beaten him in the past," Von Erich said, "and I'm certain I can do it again. Flair has been lucky up until now, but his luck is running out. I'll be bringing the NWA title back home to Texas very soon, back home to my family, and to the fans who support us so strongly. Flair's days are numbered. It's only a matter of time." □



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**HOGAN/STUDD**

(Continued from page 35)

people. With such love and support, how could Hogan *ever* be just another wrestler. Yes, the thought is ludicrous.

Hogan removes his sweatband and throws that to the audience. The fans howl, scream, yell, holler. Their support—Hulkamania—is total and unequivocal. Hulkamania is unique in the world of professional wrestling. Hulkamania, as Hogan likes to say, is running wild!

And Hulkamania is needed this night, for the incredible Hulk Hogan is facing off against none other than the 364-pound giant from Los Angeles, California, Big John Studd.

Outweighed by over 40 pounds, Hogan needs to rely on his experience in this match. But as the match gets underway, it is clear that Studd is equally as experienced. Hogan is matched move for move. Tests of strength prove inconclusive. And when Studd comes flying off the corner ropes with an elbowsmash, following up his attack with several knees to Hogan's midsection, it becomes clear that Studd has gained a significant advantage over the WWF heavyweight champion.

That advantage is increased when Studd captures Hogan in a full-nelson that finds Hogan scrambling to escape. Although it takes some time, Hogan does escape, but he is still weak, incapable of battling at his full abilities, unable to reverse the flow of the match—a flow that seems to be heading straight to defeat for the WWF champion.

But never underestimate the power of Hulkamania.

Slowly, powerfully, like a rumble of thunder slowly rolling across an open field, the applause begins to appear. It grows louder. Soon the hand clapping

has taken on a definite cadence, and then the fans' voices join in:

*Hulk! Hulk! Hulk!*

*Hogan! Hogan! Hogan!*

The support of the fans is like water to a thirsty man. Hogan drinks in those cheers, and they invigorate him. In seconds, Hogan has found the inner strength to fight back the pain, to fight back the anguish, and to make weary limbs do what they otherwise could not do. Hogan has found the inner strength that comes from fan support. Hogan is experiencing Hulkamania!

And within seconds, John Studd is experiencing Hulkamania as well! Hogan catapults him across the ring and downs him with a powerful elbowsmash to the chest. Hogan cups his hand to his ear and the fans' cheers grow louder. Hogan sends himself into the ropes and comes back at Studd, hurls himself in the air, and crashes down on Studd with an awe-inspiring legsmash.

Studd's only escape: to roll out of the ring. His only strategy: to grab a chair from ringside and attack Hogan with it. Studd followed his strategy, and after attacking Hogan and getting disqualified, he beat a hasty retreat to his dressing room.

Studd may have thought his strategy a smart one, and may believe that he succeeded in gaining some kind of a victory over Hulk Hogan—but Studd retreated to his own dressing room a desperate man, so desperate for victory that he had to use a chair against his opponent.

In reality, Studd returned to his dressing room a beaten man. He was beaten by the power of Hulk Hogan, and by the power of Hogan's fans—the power of Hulkamania! ☐



## WILDFIRE 85

(Continued from page 40)

many months, it looks as if Tommy will not be involving himself in long, drawn-out feuds. For the first time in many, many months, it looks as if Tommy has found himself a tag team partner that he can work with to the best of his abilities. And for the first time in many, many months, Tommy is talking about regaining the NWA World title he held for four days back in early 1981.

"I'm really feeling good these days," Tommy said. "I feel like I've been wrestling better than I ever have in my career. I know how everyone has criticized me for my involvement in all kinds of feuds, and I know how those feuds have hurt my career. But all that's behind me now. This is the new Tommy Rich, the 1985 Tommy Rich, and there are great things ahead for me and for my fans.

"Look for me to be wrestling everywhere," Tommy continued, "and look for me and Jerry to capture a major tag team title. Soon. And after that..."

Tommy took a deep breath and grinned.

"... well, I don't want to make a prediction that I can't keep," Tommy said, "but with the involvement of both the NWA and AWA in *Pro Wrestling USA*, my chances at a world title shot are doubled, right? Hey, brother, who knows? I'm getting in line for my title shots, and maybe, who knows, someday soon..."

Tommy just laughed with self-assurance. A self-assurance that I haven't seen in Tommy for a long time. It looks good on him. And it will undoubtedly help him inch closer to the success he talks about, both in tag team matches and in singles matches.

And maybe even in world title matches. ☐

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**DUSTY RHODES**

(Continued from page 43)

treat him as a joke. The man's dignity was on the line, and Street showed that he takes his dignity very seriously.

For the first few minutes of the battle, Rhodes was overwhelmed by Street's rage. Then Dusty's fury swelled to equal proportions and the match turned into a war. Some fans screamed themselves hoarse while others sat stunned into silence by the violent cruelty of the bout.

The referee had no choice but to disqualify both men for tactics that wouldn't be allowed in a barroom brawl. Street rushed back to the dress-

ing room while Dusty remained in the ring accepting cheers from the fans. He was a weary but happy man.

Afterward, Dusty was asked if he thought he and Street would ever again be a tag team. At first Dusty shook his head, but then he added, "I never thought I'd ever team with Street. I guess if there's one thing I've learned in wrestling is that anything can happen. I will say one thing about the man, though: He earned my respect tonight as a wrestler."

That admission could be considered a victory for both men. □

**TED DiBIASE**

(Continued from page 44)

Brad is a tough kid," Bob said. "He's been so hellbent on revenge, though, he's lost control of himself in a lot of ways. It cost him the National heavyweight title for a while, when The Spoiler took the belt away from him, and that happened because Brad was too determined to get revenge on DiBiase.

"See, Brad's been trying to fight two battles," Bob said, "and I don't care how tough a man is, it's tough enough to fight one battle in this sport without having to look over your shoulder at someone else who's out to get you. He's trying to sustain a National title reign at the same time as trying to get DiBiase out of wrestling. That's hard. That's very, very hard. And I really don't want to see him do that. Last time he slipped up it cost him the National title. Next time—who knows?"

As Bob talked, I looked at his face. I could clearly see the scars from where he had been operated on, and the patchy skin where the plastic surgery had been performed. I thought about the pain

that Bob must have had to endure over the past few months, and I thought about why Bob felt so strongly about Brad's involvement in the DiBiase situation. It was simply a father's concern with trying to keep his son from harm.

In wrestling, if your son is involved in the sport as heavily as you are, fatherly instincts have to be eliminated completely. Angelo Mosca has learned this. Blackjack Mulligan has learned this. But I think Bob Armstrong has yet to resign himself to this fact: that there are times when he's going to have to let his son do what he feels he has to do; and he may have to watch his son suffer for it. As painful as it may be, that's a part of the growth and maturation process of a professional wrestler.

"I've told my son time and time again," Bob said, "and since he's probably going to read this magazine I'll tell him again; maybe seeing the words in print will have more of an effect on him.

"Listen to me, Brad. You've been a rock through this whole situation. I love you very much.



I'm proud of you. I enjoy watching you compete, and your success over the years has made me proud.

"But you can't continue to fight my battle for me. I can't measure the depth of my feelings for what you did for me while I was in the hospital, but I'm healed now. I'm back. And now that I'm back, it's time for you to step down. DiBiase is my problem, now, not yours. You've got to move on to other things.

"There, I've said it," Bob continued, "and now maybe Brad will finally pay attention to what I've been telling him. Maybe even the fans will read my words and send letters to Brad telling him what I've been telling him. Because this is so important to me. I don't want Brad's career ruined because of something that happened to me."

Is Bob afraid of DiBiase injuring him again, perhaps even more brutally than before?

"No. Absolutely not," Bob said. "I think if anyone ought to be afraid, it's DiBiase who should be afraid. This is payback time, my friend, and I can't think of another man in the world who owes me more dues than DiBiase. And I aim to collect those dues. I really don't care how long it takes, but I *will* collect those dues. And it's not going to be pretty."

I have no doubt that Bob Armstrong will reenter the mat wars full force now that he is recovered from his facial surgery. But I want to offer this warning:

Don't be too quick to exact revenge, Bob. I know you're a fighter, I know you have plenty of ring experience behind you, but you've just come through some hard months. Remember those days in the hospital, and remember how you got there.

In short, do what you have to do with DiBiase. But as Sgt. Esterhaus used to say on *Hill Street Blues*, "HEY!—Let's be careful out there." ☐

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- Telepathy Made Easy!
- Influencing Others to Do Your Bidding!
- Controlling a Conversation!
- The Technique of Silent Persuasion!
- Using Witchcraft to Find Friends!
- How to Find the Lover You Want!
- How to Bring Your Perfect Mate to You!
- How to Dominate Others!
- Witchcraft Power for Money!
- Witchcraft Power to Make You Irresistible to Others!
- Spells for Finding Lost Objects!
- How to Always Win with Luck Spells!
- More Power for Bigger Goals!
- Inhaling Cosmic Energy!
- Recharging Your Cosmic Batteries!
- Raising Your Vital Energy Level!
- How to Keep Evil Forces Away!

miracles happen in their daily lives!

You'll see how Vern, a man who likes to give a lot of expensive parties, was always short of cash until he discovered the amazing WITCH'S MONEY JAR—now all he has to do is dip in, for it brings him an endless flow of cash! Evelyn, a waitress, was always lending money to friends, and was always broke. Finally, she placed her last dollar on the table, and worked the MONEY MAGNET SPELL over it. All at once, dozens of people who had borrowed money from her, rushed to pay her back!

Hank was perpetually broke. One night he got together with some friends, and they decided to cast the MONEY SPELL. The very next day, Hank received in the mail a check for some \$250 worth of insurance. (He had never heard of the company that sent the check, he was not insured with them, and had never even made a claim—but he accepted the money.) Another member of the group that used the spell, a 40-year-old secretary, received an automobile as a gift! All the other members of the group received amazing windfalls of money, as well! You'll see how Dexter, a retiree, lives RENT FREE and receives \$200 a week at the age of 78, with a secret you'll find in this Witch Book! You'll see how Claudine, a secretary, was able to wear the finest, most expensive furs—FREE—and spend weekends at an expensive ski lodge in the mountains, where she met a wonderful man! How Ruth L., a widow—with nothing but a small pension, and a little savings—received her dream house, by using a simple 5-minute ritual on page 38 of this book!

Using the same Witchcraft secrets, YOU can achieve peace of mind and freedom from money worries for the rest of your life!

## YOU CAN HEAL YOURSELF AS WITCHES DO!

Feeling sick today? Plagued by a lot of troublesome illnesses? Perhaps some relative is sick and constantly demanding your attention? Or perhaps it is even a pet that needs help? With the MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT, you can cure anything, say authors Gavin and Yvonne Frost: "In our experience... we have not found single incurable disease!"

• **ANDY DISSOLVES A GALLSTONE!**—Andy M. developed gallstones. When his illness became too troublesome to ignore, he went to a doctor. Urine tests revealed that he was chronically alkaline. His body was badly out of balance. Using this Witchcraft method to restore balance to the mind and body—in a short while, X-rays showed that he had no more gallstones! Andy never again suffered the excruciating pain of passing stones!

In the same way, say Gavin and Yvonne Frost, almost all illnesses can be prevented. You are actually employing an ancient Witchcraft method to remove diseased tissue! Even if you do not have any belief in the results, the power will work for you!

One woman, who had been in a wheelchair for 26 years, due to polio and arthritis, used the Witchcraft healing method, and reported that she had no pain and could walk and garden again! A man reported that his son's deep 3rd degree burns miraculously healed overnight!

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• **HOW TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE!**—Would you like to be able to see the future? You CAN with the magic Black Mirror! You'll see how to make on page 23. All you need is some ink and a bowl of water. Then use the chant on this page, and you will be able to see many things. One man uses it to read tomorrow's newspaper. YOU can use it to check the stock market or that important horse race!

• **MAKE TIME RUN BACKWARD OR FORWARD!**—A



## MEET THE AUTHORS

**GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D.**, is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

**Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D.**, with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

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• **SECRETS OF SILENT PERSUASION!**—There is a magic handshake that Witches often use, revealed on page 62. With this secret, you can implant a thought in someone's mind! You can use this Witchcraft power to dominate others! Control your boss! Make someone love you! Leave your enemies groveling in the dust! There is even a gazing technique Witches use on page 45, for identical thoughts. With this secret, you can read your friend's mind and share his or her identical thoughts!

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# THIS MONTH IN...



## THE Wrestler



**RICK MARTEL** meets **BOB BACKLUND** in the greatest AWA World title match of all time!



Learn why **SUNSHINE'S** pact with **HERCULES HERNANDEZ** is doomed to failure

**PLUS . . .**

**DON KERNODLE'S** bloody message to **IVAN KOLOFF**: "Russians look good in red!" . . . Will **BUTCH REED** betray his fans—again? . . . It's a dog's life—and **JUNKYARD DOG** wouldn't trade it with anyone . . .

**MIKE GRAHAM** is interviewed

All this and much more . . . in the July 1985 issue of *The Wrestler*

**ON SALE NOW!**



Inside

## Wrestling



It's a deadlock as **THE ROAD WARRIORS** take on **JERRY BLACKWELL** and **SGT. SLAUGHTER**



Find out why **KERRY VON ERICH** risked his future to wrestle **KAMALA**

**PLUS . . .**

Can **EDDIE GILBERT'S** military coup dethrone **JERRY LAWLER**? . . .

"Hotseat" interview with **NIKITA KOLOFF** . . . Is **DAVID SHULTZ** too dangerous for **HULK HOGAN**? . . . **CHRIS ADAMS** and **GARY HART** face off "One on One" . . .

**TERRY TAYLOR** is profiled

All this and much more . . . in the July 1985 issue of *Inside Wrestling*

**ON SALE NOW!**

# Victory Sports Wrestling



Dusty Rhodes

## TOP 10

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**  
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**RICK MARTEL**  
236, Quebec City, Quebec
- 3—**HULK HOGAN**  
305, Venice Beach, CA
- 4—**DUSTY RHODES**  
302, Austin, TX
- 5—**KERRY VON ERICH**  
260, Denton, TX
- 6—**MAGNUM T.A.**  
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 7—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**  
310, Parris Island, SC
- 8—**RONNIE GARVIN**  
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 9—**GREG VALENTINE**  
243, Seattle, WA
- 10—**RANDY SAVAGE**  
245, Sarasota, FL

## TAG TEAMS

- 1—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**  
*AWA World tag team champions*  
Combined weight: 567 pounds
- 2—**IVAN & NIKITA KOLOFF**  
*NWA World tag team champions*  
Combined weight: 524 pounds
- 3—**NIKOLAI VOLKOFF & THE IRON SHEIK**  
*WWF tag team champions*  
Combined weight: 607 pounds
- 4—**STEVE KEIRN & STAN LANE**  
*Mid-Southern tag team champions*  
Combined weight: 479 pounds
- 5—**RICK MORTON & ROBERT GIBSON**  
*Mid-South tag team champions*  
Combined weight: 453 pounds
- 6—**DENNIS CONDREY & BOBBY EATON**  
*No. 1 contenders to World Class tag team title*  
Combined weight: 472 pounds
- 7—**RON BASS & BLACK BART**  
*Mid-Atlantic tag team champions*  
Combined weight: 546 pounds
- 8—**DUSTY RHODES & MANNY FERNANDEZ**  
*No. 1 contenders to NWA World tag team title*  
Combined weight: 565 pounds
- 9—**BARRY WINDHAM & MIKE ROTUNDO**  
*No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title*  
Combined weight: 475 pounds
- 10—**MARK & JAY YOUNGBLOOD**  
*U.S. tag team champions*  
Combined weight: 467 pounds

## NWA

*World Champion:*

**RIC FLAIR**

243, Minneapolis, MN

- 1—**MAGNUM T.A.**  
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 2—**JERRY BLACKWELL**  
474, Stone Mountain, GA
- 3—**DUSTY RHODES**  
302, Austin, TX
- 4—**KERRY VON ERICH**  
260, Denton, TX
- 5—**RONNIE GARVIN**  
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 6—**RICK RUDE**  
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 7—**CHRIS ADAMS**  
225, Stratford, England
- 8—**JESSE BARR**  
243, Portland, OR
- 9—**KEVIN VON ERICH**  
239, Denton, TX
- 10—**BUZZ TYLER**  
285, Rock Hill, SC

## AWA

*World Champion:*

**RICK MARTEL**

236, Quebec City, Quebec

- 1—**LARRY ZBYSKO**  
248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2—**JIM GARVIN**  
235, Tampa, FL
- 3—**BOB BACKLUND**  
242, Princeton, MN
- 4—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**  
310, Parris Island, SC
- 5—**NICK BOCKWINKEL**  
245, Beverly Hills, CA
- 6—**JERRY BLACKWELL**  
474, Stone Mountain, GA
- 7—**KING TONGA**  
274, Tonga
- 8—**MASKED SUPERSTAR**  
282, Atlanta, GA
- 9—**MR. SAITO**  
247, Osaka, Japan
- 10—**BRAD RHEINGANS**  
248, Appleton, MN

## MOST POPULAR

- 1—**KERRY VON ERICH**  
260, Denton, TX
- 2—**HULK HOGAN**  
305, Venice Beach, CA
- 3—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**  
310, Parris Island, SC
- 4—**DUSTY RHODES**  
302, Austin, TX
- 5—**RICK MARTEL**  
236, Quebec City, Quebec
- 6—**MAGNUM T.A.**  
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 7—**JUNKYARD DOG**  
260, New Orleans, LA
- 8—**KEVIN VON ERICH**  
239, Denton, TX
- 9—**RONNIE GARVIN**  
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 10—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**  
280, New York, NY

## MOST HATED

- 1—**RODDY PIPER**  
231, Glasgow, Scotland
- 2—**CHRIS ADAMS**  
225, Stratford, England
- 3—**JOHN STUDD**  
364, Washington, DC
- 4—**JIM GARVIN**  
235, Tampa, FL
- 5—**GINO HERNANDEZ**  
224, Houston, TX
- 6—**TULLY BLANCHARD**  
235, San Antonio, TX
- 7—**PAUL ORNDORFF**  
253, Brandon, FL
- 8—**TED DIBLASE**  
247, Omaha, NB
- 9—**JESSE BARR**  
243, Portland, OR
- 10—**STEVE WILLIAMS**  
295, Tulsa, OK



# OFFICIAL

# WRESTLING RATINGS

## WWF

Champion:

**HULK HOGAN**

305, Venice Beach, CA

- 1—**GREG VALENTINE**  
243, Seattle, WA
- 2—**RODDY PIPER**  
231, Scotland
- 3—**TITO SANTANA**  
245, Mission, TX
- 4—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**  
274, Sunset Beach, HA
- 5—**KEN PATERA**  
256, Portland, OR
- 6—**JUNKYARD DOG**  
260, New Orleans, LA
- 7—**JOHN STUDD**  
364, Washington, DC
- 8—**PAUL ORNDORFF**  
253, Brandon, FL
- 9—**JIMMY SNUKA**  
250, Fiji Islands
- 10—**COWBOY BOB ORTON**  
245, Kansas City, KS

## FLORIDA

- 1—**RICK RUDE**  
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 2—**JESSE BARR**  
243, Portland, OR
- 3—**BRIAN BLAIR**  
237, Tampa, FL
- 4—**WAHOO McDANIEL**  
260, Midland, TX
- 5—**BUGSY McGRAW**  
268, New York, NY
- 6—**TERRY GORDY**  
289, Chattanooga, TN
- 7—**MICHAEL HAYES**  
255, Marietta, GA
- 8—**THE MISSING LINK**  
273, parts unknown
- 9—**MIKE GRAHAM**  
229, Tampa, FL
- 10—**HECTOR GUERRERO**  
243, Mexico

## GEORGIA

- 1—**RONNIE GARVIN**  
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 2—**TOMMY RICH**  
248, Hendersonville, TN
- 3—**BOB ROOP**  
273, Tampa, FL
- 4—**RIP ROGERS**  
238, Atlanta, GA
- 5—**OLE ANDERSON**  
256, Minneapolis, MN
- 6—**RON STARR**  
238, Shreveport, LA
- 7—**THE ITALIAN STALLION**  
240, Naples, Italy
- 8—**T-BOLT PATTERSON**  
245, Atlanta, GA
- 9—**RON RITCHIE**  
240, Tampa, FL
- 10—**DEVIL BLUE**  
257, parts unknown

## MID-SOUTH

- 1—**TERRY TAYLOR**  
225, Vero Beach, FL
- 2—**TED DiBIASE**  
247, Omaha, NB
- 3—**BRAD ARMSTRONG**  
223, Marietta, GA
- 4—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**  
280, New York, NY
- 5—**BUTCH REED**  
265, Kansas City, MO
- 6—**STEVE WILLIAMS**  
295, Tulsa, OK
- 7—**JAKE ROBERTS**  
243, Baton Rouge, LA
- 8—**ICEMAN PARSONS**  
245, St. Louis, MO
- 9—**BUDDY LANDELL**  
232, Jacksonville, FL
- 10—**TIM HORNER**  
235, Morristown, TN

## WORLD CLASS

- 1—**CHRIS ADAMS**  
225, Stratford, England
- 2—**GINO HERNANDEZ**  
224, Houston, TX
- 3—**KERRY VON ERICH**  
260, Denton, TX
- 4—**ONE MAN GANG**  
468, Chicago, IL
- 5—**KEVIN VON ERICH**  
239, Denton, TX
- 6—**HERCULES HERNANDEZ**  
252, Tampa, FL
- 7—**BRIAN ADIDAS**  
238, Denton, TX
- 8—**MIKE VON ERICH**  
220, Denton, TX
- 9—**RIP OLIVER**  
245, Tampa, FL
- 10—**KELLY KINISKI**  
242, Vancouver, BC

## MID-SOUTHERN

- 1—**RANDY SAVAGE**  
245, Sarasota, FL
- 2—**JERRY LAWLER**  
234, Memphis, TN
- 3—**EDDIE GILBERT**  
222, Lexington, TN
- 4—**IRON MIKE SHARPE**  
271, Winnipeg, Manitoba
- 5—**LANNY POFFO**  
228, Sarasota, FL
- 6—**EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET**  
234, South Wales
- 7—**JERRY OSKE**  
243, Hartford, CT
- 8—**DUTCH MANTEL**  
242, Oil Trough, TX
- 9—**MR. WRESTLING**  
240, parts unknown
- 10—**SWEET DADDY SIKI**  
238, Toronto, Ontario

## MID-ATLANTIC

- 1—**MAGNUM T.A.**  
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 2—**BUZZ TYLER**  
285, Rock Hill, SC
- 3—**DUSTY RHODES**  
302, Austin, TX
- 4—**TULLY BLANCHARD**  
235, San Antonio, TX
- 5—**RON BASS**  
265, Pampa, TX
- 6—**JIMMY VALLANT**  
251, New York, NY
- 7—**WAHOO McDANIEL**  
260, Midland, TX
- 8—**KONGA THE BARBARIAN**  
265, Chicago
- 9—**SUPERSTAR GRAHAM**  
260, Paradise Valley, AZ
- 10—**DICK SLATER**  
235, Tampa, FL

## NORTHWEST

- 1—**KARL STEINER**  
250, East Germany
- 2—**BOBBY JAGGERS**  
265, Dunlap, KS
- 3—**BILLY HAYNES**  
245, Portland, OR
- 4—**MIKE MILLER**  
260, Memphis, TN
- 5—**KENDO NAGASAKI**  
248, Singapore
- 6—**MEGA MAHARISHI**  
260, Portland, OR
- 7—**ROCKY VENTORO**  
237, New York, NY
- 8—**JERRY GREY**  
241, Tampa, FL
- 9—**MR. EBONY**  
242, parts unknown
- 10—**RICKY VAUGHAN**  
245, Tampa, FL

For period ended April 4, 1985

# RATINGS ANALYSIS

**This column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.**

**A champion or a world champion?** There is no question that the singlemost controversial aspect of our ratings is the fact that the NWA and AWA champions are listed as "world champions," while the WWF champion is listed simply as "champion."

The very first installment of "Ratings Analysis," printed in the September 1983 issue of our sister publication *The Wrestler*, dealt with one aspect of this question. At the time, Adrian Adonis was laying claim to the "undisputed world heavyweight championship" as sponsored by Southwest Championship Wrestling.



**Hulk Hogan**

At that time, disclaiming the "world" status of Adonis' title, we wrote:

*Nevertheless, we feel it is inappropriate at this particular time to automatically elevate Adrian Adonis' title to the level of Ric Flair's NWA World title and Nick Bockwinkel's AWA World title. Adonis' title has been in existence only a few months. The NWA has been in existence for nearly 80 years. The AWA championship, in existence since the late 1950s, is the only other world title we recognize. The WWF, which was formed in 1963, is recognized as the largest regional title in the world, something more than the Mid-Atlantic title, but less than the NWA World belt.*

The wrestling community, more interested in reducing the number of world title claimants than increasing it, joined with us and refused to recognize Adonis' claim. At the time, we recognized the world championships of the NWA and AWA. We did not regard the WWF title as a world title for two reasons: the WWF champion was prohibited from making title defenses against scientific wrestlers, and the title was only defended in the Northeastern part of the United States.

But in the last few years, the WWF has undergone a remarkable expansion. Numerous television outlets have been added to the WWF's already formidable network of broadcast and cable stations, and WWF expansion has seen cards promoted and held in arenas throughout the country rather than simply in the Northeast.

And let's not forget that the WWF title has changed hands twice in two years: The Iron Sheik won the belt from Bob Backlund, and Hulk Hogan in turn won the belt from the Sheik.

Hogan's popularity is undeniable, but is popularity alone a reason to elevate the WWF championship to "world title" status? Like Backlund, Hogan only defends his title against rulebreaking opponents. NWA champion Ric Flair and AWA champion Rick Martel both defend their titles against scientific and rulebreaking competitors.



**Rick Martel**

Another major argument against elevating the WWF title to world championship status is the fact that when Hogan travels around the country, he defends his title against the same rulebreakers he would meet had he remained in the Northeast. Both Flair and Martel, on the other hand, travel the country and face top regional champions: When Jerry Lawler held the Mid-Southern heavyweight title, for example, he got the chance to wrestle both Flair and Martel.

During major Japanese tours, both Flair and Martel defend their belts against top Japanese competitors such as Jumbo Tsuruta, Shohei Baba, Tenryu, and Riki Chosu. Hulk Hogan, it should be noted, has also done this, defending his belt against such Japanese stars as Tatsumi Fujinami and Antonio Inoki.

As you can see, there are many pros and cons in the argument for elevating the WWF title to world championship status. The staff of *Victory Sports Wrestling* is divided on this issue, and we would like to throw the question open to the readers of this magazine.

What do you think? Should the WWF title be recognized as a world championship? Should we continue to refer to the title as simply the "WWF heavyweight title"? Or do you have a third alternative you would like to see make its way into our ratings system.

We want to hear from you. Send your comments and arguments to: WWF Ratings Analysis; Box 48; Rockville Centre; NY 11571. We will take all comments into consideration, and may be taking action on this issue in the near future.

**The number one man in the AWA:** From this issue forward, the Americas champion will be rated number one in the AWA behind the AWA World champion. Precedent for this type of rating appears in the WWF, where the Intercontinental champion is rated number one behind the WWF champion, and in the NWA, where the U.S. heavyweight champion is rated number one behind the NWA champion. The Americas title is currently held by Larry Zbyszko, now rated number one behind AWA champion Rick Martel.

**The address for mail:** Suggestions and comments about our ratings system and "Ratings Analysis" are always appreciated. On occasion, readers' comments and questions will be printed in this column. Send all mail to: "Ratings Analysis" c/o *Victory Sports Wrestling*; Box 48; Rockville Centre; NY 11571. □



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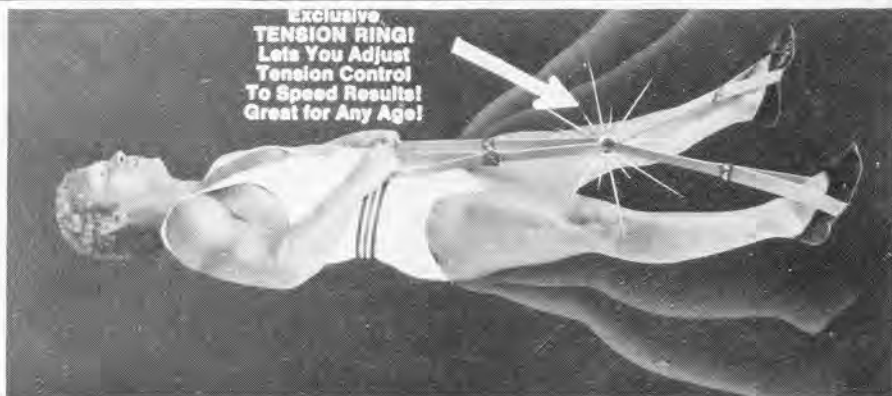
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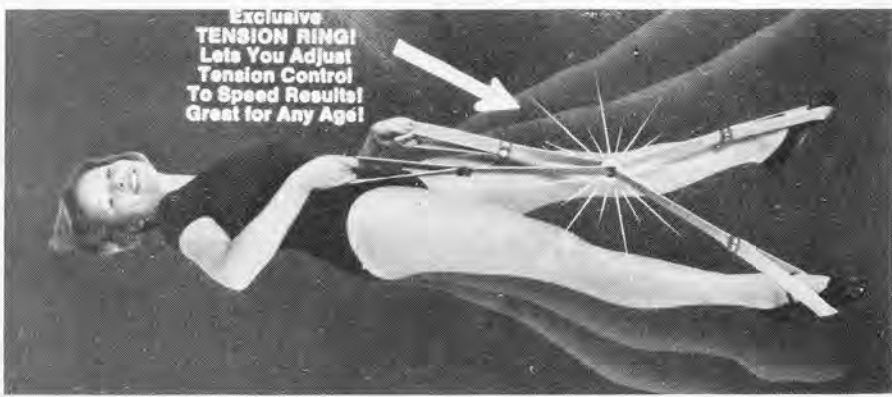
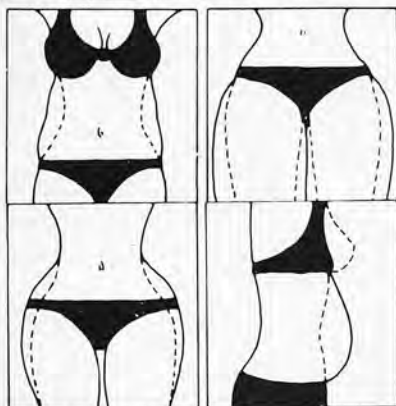
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